



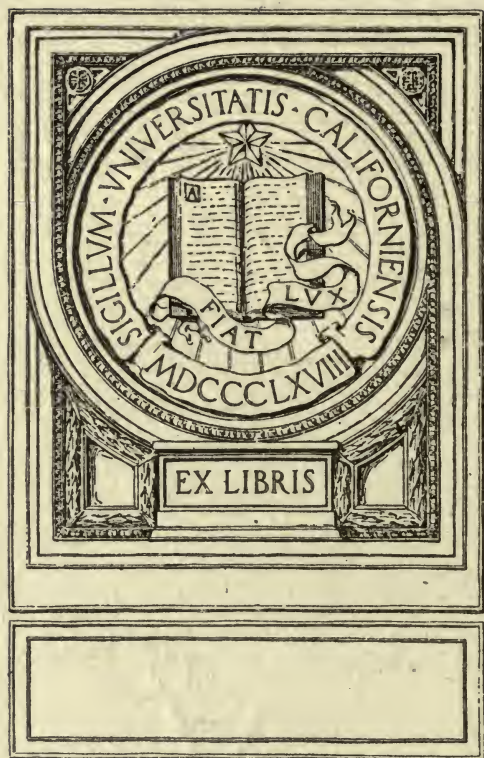
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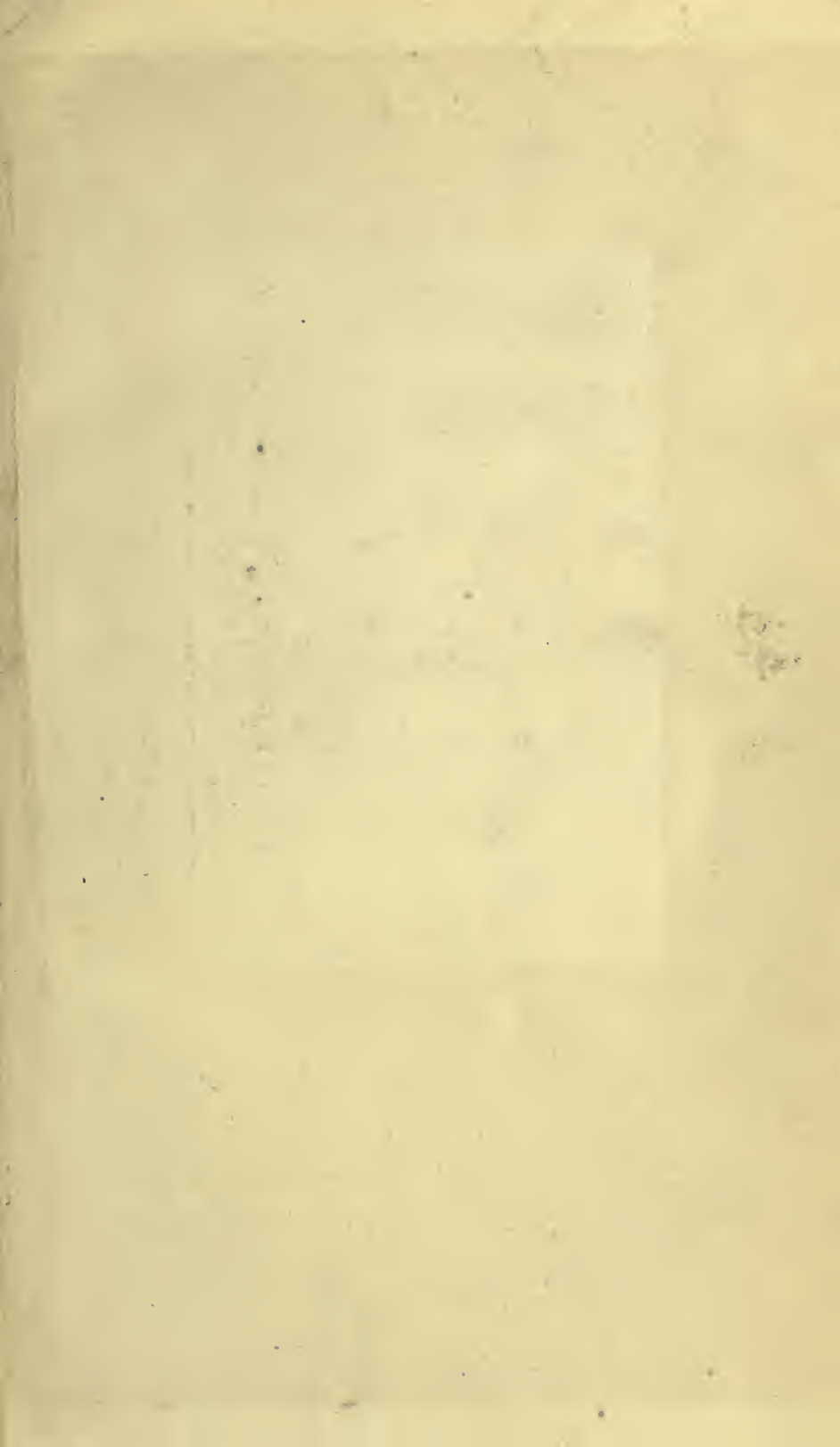


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THE
ISLAND DEPENDENCIES
OF
JAPAN

C. M. SALWEY







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THE ISLAND DEPENDENCIES OF JAPAN

THE
JOURNAL OF
THE
ROYAL ANTHROPOLOGICAL INSTITUTE

THE
HOMES OF THE
HEAD-HUNTERS.



NO. I.

HOMES OF THE HEAD-HUNTERS.

Frontispiece.

THE ISLAND DEPENDENCIES OF JAPAN

AN ACCOUNT OF THE ISLANDS THAT HAVE PASSED
UNDER JAPANESE CONTROL SINCE THE
RESTORATION, 1867-1912

A SERIES OF MONOGRAPHS, REPRINTED FROM THE "IMPERIAL
AND ASIATIC QUARTERLY REVIEW," WITH ADDITIONS
FROM NATIVE SOURCES, TRANSLATIONS
AND NEW INFORMATION

BY

CHARLOTTE M. SALWEY

MEMBER OF THE ASIATIC SOCIETY OF JAPAN

MEMBER OF THE JAPAN SOCIETY, LONDON

AUTHOR OF "FANS OF JAPAN," "GIANTS OF THE EARTH," ETC., ETC.

ILLUSTRATED WITH SPECIAL MAPS, TOGETHER
WITH PENCIL DRAWINGS

BY

JASPER SALWEY, A.R.I.B.A.

LONDON

EUGÈNE L. MORICE

BOOKSELLER AND PUBLISHER

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1913

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TO WHOM
APPROPRIATE

TO
THE MEMORY OF
HIROSÉ THE BRAVE

“Sail on . . . sail on, ye stately ships,
And with your floating bridge the ocean span ;
Be mine to guard this light from all eclipse,
Be yours to bring man nearer unto man !”

H. W. LONGFELLOW : *From “ The Lighthouse.”*

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THE ISLAND DEPENDENCIES OF JAPAN

THE LATE EMPEROR OF JAPAN

AN APPRECIATION

HIS Imperial Majesty Meiji Tennō, the 122nd Mikado of the unbroken dynasty of Japan, was born on November 3, 1852, in the ancient city of Kyoto, which was formerly the seat of Imperial Government. He succeeded to the throne after his father, Komei, in the year 1867. His Imperial Majesty Meiji Tennō married according to the Shinto rite on December 28 of the same year, Princess Haruko, third daughter of Ichijō Tadaka, a noble of the first rank.

Few Emperors have assumed the reins of government during such a momentous crisis of their country, and few could have accomplished their task with sounder judgment. It is true that His Imperial Majesty had received a thorough training for the responsibilities that would sooner or later devolve upon him as a Ruler. But this training was imbued with all the traditions of the past. With these deeply implanted in his mind at so early an age in his career, it must have required great mental balance to organize and accept the unprecedented changes that were found to be expedient at the outset of the Meiji era.

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Now that his reign has ended, a near retrospect of the forty-four years through which he ruled, the events that have been crowded into that term, and the issue of the same, makes us realize the wonderful capacity and success of Japan's late Sovereign.

From dawn to the meridian of light he passed during his illustrious career. His was a blameless life, and by reason of the many virtues that he possessed, the tasks that grew in magnitude crowned his life with triumph.

The term of "Great Peace" had taught the Japanese an important lesson. During seclusion arts had flourished, loyalty had taken deep root, and the spirit of military ardour had gained in virility. Patriotism culminated almost to worship of a Monarch beloved, and believed to be Divine. This admirable characteristic led the people to the insatiable desire to see their Ruler restored to absolute power. Thus it came about that, eager for a new régime after a short struggle, the Shōgunate was abolished. Keiki, the last Shōgun, bowing to circumstances, recognized that a dual form of government was no longer conducive to the welfare of the country, and consequently resigned and retired with true dignity, to his lasting merit.

Events new and almost startling in their development followed one another with surprising rapidity. On the Restoration of Imperial Sovereignty, Embassies to great Powers were undertaken. This ultimately led to the Revision of Treaties, which proved of incalculable benefit to the nation. Education of all classes and of both sexes became the next consideration. This received the full approval of their Sovereign. Though at first a difficult work to organize, it proved a great

success when developed. The war with China ushered in Japan to the notice of the world as to her military possibilities. The Anglo-Japanese Alliance, the rivalry between Russia and Japan culminating in a conflict between the two countries, international relationships and other circumstances of a far-reaching nature, gained for the Land of the Rising Sun her coveted position as a World Power. The growth of industries and trades, the acquisition of Formosa, Korea, the Lui Kui, and the Kuril Islands, together with the re-ceding of Karafuto (the southern half of Saghalien), the leasing of the Liao-tung peninsula, the occupation of Port Arthur, and other grand events, have made a brilliant chapter in the history of the ever-expanding Empire.

The promise of a Constitutional government was granted, and faithfully carried out by the Emperor on February 11, 1889, and in the following year the first session of the Imperial Diet was convoked. This was the fulfilment of that solemn declaration made at the time of his Coronation "that public affairs shall be determined by public assembly." The chapters that embody the Constitution of Japan are deeply interesting, but space cannot be afforded here to their details.

Under the spell of self-control and utter forgetfulness of his rôle of renunciation, a gravity born out of great resolve settled over the life of this great Ruler. No wonder he was rarely seen to smile. Wrapped in the impregnable barrier of dignified reserve, he drew forth the admiration of his devoted advisers, and deepened their fealty for one who, after centuries of rooted traditions, could bow to the call of enterprise, which brooked no delay. Progress for the public weal,

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expansion on every side on foreign lines, and a general remodelling of all former institutions, culminated in the comprehensive motto that should proclaim the reign of H.I.M. Meiji Tennō "The Era of Enlightenment."

His was a dignity that preferred seclusion, but which never disregarded the call for action. He sought to hold the love of his people more by his absence than by his presence among them. By this means his loyal subject created for themselves their individual ideals.

Meiji Tennō's daily life apart from his responsibilities was simple and methodical. Hours were often spent in literary pursuits. The poet's mind was his, and he perpetuated his genius in exquisite *Tanka*, or verse, peculiar to the land. It was in this way that his recognition of his people's affection found expression. He saw beneath the material aspect of the toiling figure in the ragged garment, and the weather-worn shoe; the pain, and the suffering, the struggle, and the resolve. Meiji Tennō was a man of contemplation, slow of speech, but fertile of brain, ever thinking of those with whom he was not closely surrounded—the labourer in the field, the soldier in battle, the loving wife keeping her lonely watch before some simple shrine, asking for the brave endurance of her lord, even unto death. These were constantly in his thoughts, and his appreciation of their loyalty has been immortalized in verse. A powerful but invisible sympathy was thus created, and a communion of soul with soul established, between Sovereign and subjects, to endure through all time.

On July 29, while darkness was merging into dawn, the Monarch who had ruled wisely and well over the

Empire of 4,000 isles, after a brief but painful illness, ceased to breathe. The prayers and sighs of his sorrowing subjects were silenced by the hush of death. Multitudes within those scattered seagirt homes will never now look upon his still, grave face. H.I.M. Meiji Tennō has passed from among us, and has been gathered to his illustrious ancestors.

The immortal Iyeyasu gained his renown by the veto he levied against aliens and religion, expelling alike from the land, the foreigner and the Christian. The name of Meiji Tennō will for ever be associated with the opening of the gates of the Land of the Rising Sun, and the absolute freedom in religion, coupled with justice and humanity—these blessings he generously granted to all within his realm. For this, beloved by all, revered by his councillors, admired by foreigners, he lived the central figure of a beautiful land—a land of art, full of traditional interest that charmed by reason of its individuality, mysticism, and necromancy, the hearts of many beyond the seas, as well as those to whom it belongs.

Where the tall cryptomeria rear their stately forms as living witnesses to all the traditional grandeur of bygone years, of procession and custom, sacred dance and ceremonial display; where the ring-doves coo, and the temple bell beats out the march of time; where the heron wings her flight across the pathless heavens, and the tall torii preludes the approach to the inner sanctuary of Peace, may the earthly remains of this great Ruler rest while the wheels of energy gyrate and expansive theories widen, and far-distant dreams of aggrandizement find fulfilment, and the old order gives

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more place to the new ideals! The work that it was his mission to commence and vitalize goes on and on—unending in the restless passion of the passing age. This will not disturb the Master resting after toil. The glory of his life will shed its aura around the quiet sacred spot where Peace and Perfect Rest are sought and found.

The priceless emblems of the Regalia of Japan pass into the keeping of Prince Yoshi-hito Hara-no-miya, third son of the late Emperor. The injunction accompanying the Mirror, the Sword, and the Jewel bequeathed by Ama-terasu herself to Jimmu Tenno, Japan's first Ruler, runs as follows: "*By this Mirror you will discern between right and wrong. Judge all as you would cut by this Sword. Keep virtue pure and smooth as the Jewel, then you will rule the world for ever.*"

Within these emblems lies the secret strength of Japan's greatness—the Mirror of Truth, into which the devotee gazes to search into his own heart; the Sword, that rights the wrong and establishes honour; the Jewel, emblem of the soul, wherein traditions of a far-reaching significance centre. These three, by their virtues, will guide the royal will, bent on continuing the triumphs of illustrious ancestors, whose spirits, though they have passed beyond the material, yet are ever present to the true believer. Their power and influence endure through the long dynasty unshaken from its foundation. Confident of future success, aided by love and loyalty, may the new *Era of Great Righteousness* be known by deeds as great as those which will henceforth illuminate the Meiji era now passed away.

INTRODUCTION

AMONG the many enterprises undertaken by the Japanese since the accession to the throne of the late Emperor Meiji Tennō in A.D. 1867, that of definitely settling the question of supremacy or right of ownership over certain groups of islands situated near the mainland of Japan is not only one of great concern to the world generally, but of paramount importance to the Mother Country. This paction has now been finally settled between Japan and other adjacent countries, and a mutual understanding firmly ratified. Necessary precautions for future expansion of new colonies, and sole jurisdiction over the inhabitants found sojourning therein, have made these outlying possessions a source of great interest to all.

In the early days, or even during the failing years of feudalism, but little stir was made to bring about a better state of affairs. Many an ocean-bound, tempest-torn tract of land, far away from the mainland, was simply relegated to the abode of criminals, wherein they languished in captivity without hope of release.

The islands, after survey and investigation, have proved capable to-day of becoming a source of considerable wealth if properly worked, organized, and administered. They are severally rich in many marketable commodities. For even during the last fifty years,

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materials, including vegetable substances that were formerly cast aside or rejected in ignorance of their worth, are now being sought for and utilized in large quantities. It has been realized that they can supply, and in some cases supersede, substances formerly selected for trades of many kinds—rubber, camphor, kelp, plants for the production of aniline dyes, and suchlike. Moreover, it is true, though strange, that it is by the labour of the savage and the ignorant aborigines of lonely islands that the Parisian fashions are perfected, and in some cases feathers and materials adorn alike the persons of the savage and the over-civilized.

In the following chapters it will be found that each group of islands offers its own speciality, and that it is from perilous seas the coveted fur and glorious plumage of birds alone can be obtained, so essential in the composition of regal and ceremonial attire of King or soldier, grand dame or subject, seeking presentation at Court, even in these most modern days of etiquette.

Some of the information of this small volume has already appeared as occasional contributions under the heading of "Japanese Monographs," within the covers of the *Imperial and Asiatic Quarterly Review*. It is through the kindness of the late proprietors, who placed these monographs at my disposal, that I am able to reprint my researches. But as records are few, owing to the former untutored and neglected condition of the people who inhabited the various groups, we have yet to wait for further enlightenment. This modest venture is undertaken in order to bring into notice those of our fellow-creatures who have for long been

No. I.—JAPAN.



KEY MAP OF JAPAN, AND ISLAND DEPENDENCIES.

uncared for ; also for stimulating those under whose protection they are placed to deeds of kindness, justice, and love. Religious instruction, medical skill, moral guidance, together with educational training and other blessings, should all be organized with as little delay as possible.

“The call of the East” is clear. It rings across 10,000 miles of sea and land, from country to country. Much is being done by able administration to suppress evil and foster reform. Some of the isles are fair and beautiful—the work that the Mother Country has taken in hand must not languish for want of the co-operation of her loyal sons. The solicitude of the late beloved Ruler, Meiji Tennō, for his people should arouse energetic patriots to journey to the remote boundaries of the Empire in order to proclaim the advantages that were wrought for all during the glorious Meiji era.

These Island dependencies are the courtiers around Japan, owning her sovereignty, lying suppliant at her feet, guarding her ancient seaboard, waiting for her smile and her approval.

When the Divine, in His wrath and disappointment at man's disobedience, declared that by the sweat of his brow alone he should eat bread, He did not, like the tyrant King of old, expect bricks to be made without straw ; but He provided ample, ever-increasing, visible and invisible material with which to pursue work.

The earth, in all its beauty—its vast continents and empires, with the adjacent isles that lie within their watch—symbolizes the several racial families scattered over the surface of the globe. As we mothers of men

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wait in almost breathless expectancy for our children to become great and useful members of the vast community ; to develop their possibilities for the requirements of others ; to perfect themselves as engineers and poets, agriculturists, men of science and learning, statesmen and rulers ; to bring forth by means of their intellectual and manual capacity the best of their store—so these fair, unworked isles, that lie around the Motherland, must now give of their abundance a generous tithe of love and fealty ; they must yield up their gold and their silver, their precious oils and spices, their timber and priceless ores, for they are part of the plan of Creation, ordained for service as well as for the pride of the possessors.

The land must produce wholesome and nourishing crops of cereals and other sustenance for the ever-increasing population. Coal and ores must be mined for the sinews of war in time of need, as well as for the transit of the merchandise. Camphor-trees must be renewed for medicinal purposes, and timber of many kinds planted for the building of mausoleums, temples, palaces, gateways, factory-plant and railways, as well as for many beautiful architectural triumphs. Seal-fisheries and the ingathering of the harvest of the seas must be expanded, lighthouses reared, harbours constructed, and all modern requirements, without which Japan cannot keep pace with surrounding Powers.

For these reasons these Virgin daughters of the Sea must accept their task. They are gaining maturity day by day in the Schools of Expansion and Enterprise, tutored by the hands of experts and Governors and many faithful patriots. Moreover, the struggle for

existence of the ever-increasing numbers of the inhabitants of the globe must in the future be faced. Material and labour can thus be found for all; for over the pathless ocean by the power of steam, electricity, or by wind-directed sails, rich merchandise will be placed at the command of many who need greater blessings than have hitherto been placed within their reach.

These dependencies define the present parallels on the eastern and southern boundaries of Japan's ever-increasing dominion. They are fruitful, and must in course of time become a new glory to the land.

Our own Records of the Past were not, during the early and dark ages, so wide a contrast, as we are apt to think, to that of other islands. Those who inhabit some of these Pacific groups are neither warlike nor aggressive; on the contrary, they are gentle, courteous, peaceable, and anxious to improve. The glimmer of a brighter, happier life is beginning to be kindled; the torch of knowledge, together with able administration, will revivify this lambent flame.

Great wealth lies within these possessions. Japan can boast of many eager men, who, for the honour of their country, will willingly accept the task of aiding these "fair flowers of the ocean" to expand, and pass from darkness to light. The task will be undertaken by those who bear in mind how their late beloved Ruler of over 4,000 isles took a part himself in the work of enriching his Empire. The remembrance of his blessing and spiritual communionship being ever-present to aid such great, soul-stirring labours will be the incentive, for surely there is no nobler task, or life

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more beautifully spent, than by enabling our brothers to share the blessings and benefits already enjoyed by ourselves.

The motto of the pioneer who undertakes this regeneration must be : “ *I will either find a way, or make one.*”

These “pathfinders” are as noble an army as any Emperor may desire to possess. Their lives are often in jeopardy. They are endowed with the most commendable of all virtues—*self-sacrifice*. They renounce the luxuries of more civilized surroundings ; the happiness of home-life ; the devotion of wife and children, brother, friend, in order to respond to the call of duty—but their work remains a lasting testimony to the capacity of man and the willingness to benefit generations yet unborn. May the Era of Great Righteousness inspire many to deeds as great as those that are for ever emblazoned in the pages of history, that have made the Era of Enlightenment the admiration of the world !

I am indebted to many kind friends for valuable assistance during the compilation of this small book : to Captain Arthur Torlesse, R.N. ; to Captain Turner, R.N., who visited the seal “rookeries” in the North Pacific, and personally inspected the haunts of the fur-bearing animals ; to Captain Cotton, I.M., who spent some weeks in the Northern Circuit ; and to many Japanese who have translated native works for me and who have furnished me with details of quaint manners and customs that exist among fishermen ; and particularly my thanks are due to Mr. Shinji Ishii, whose work lies in the study of the aborigines of Taiwan,

who has most courteously permitted me to quote from his letters, and who has supplied many items of news and interesting facts, together with the use of valuable and local photographs and maps. His most kind interest and encouragement in this undertaking has proved a great incentive towards its fulfilment. The three pencil drawings are by Jasper Salwey, A.R.I.B.A., adapted from photographs by Mr. Shinji Ishii. The rest of the maps have been especially prepared for this work.

THE AUTHOR.

NOTE.—A list of books consulted will be found at the end of these monographs. They are mostly the works of members of Societies to which I belong, and to these authors, Japanese and European, I tender my best thanks.

I

FORMOSA, THE BEAUTIFUL (TAIWAN)

TAIWAN, better known to Europeans by the name of Formosa, after many changes of suzerainty passed into the hands of the Japanese. In the year 1895, after the conclusion of the war between China and Japan, it was ceded to the latter as part of the war indemnity, being handed over to the victors, who have since that date seriously undertaken the task of the civilization and State administration of the island.

Like all ocean islands peopled with various races, the history of Formosa is full of incident and interest, though by no means has a full record been kept.

Surrounded by seas—Tung Hai, or the Eastern Sea, on the north; by Nan Hai, or the South Sea, on the south; within the influence of the Pacific on the east; and bounded by the wide-stretching Straits of Formosa on the west—it dips like a note of interrogation into the vast expanse of waters, whose importance, and over whose ultimate supremacy, there is bound to be in the future much dispute. The area of Formosa is enclosed within 22° and 26° latitude, and 120° to 122° longitude. On the south stretches away a cluster of islands and islets belonging to America, and consequently constituting part of American interests in the Far East. These are the Philippines.

Formosa is at present one of the most distant dependencies of Japan. A journey of between 400 to 500 miles by water has to be undertaken to reach it from the Mother Country.

Formosa was parted with somewhat willingly by the Chinese—that is, if we may believe reports. The community inhabiting the island being a lawless and rebellious people, savage and uncivilized, were not considered of much account. Savage tribes preponderated ; but men of other nations — Spaniards, Portuguese, Dutch, Philipinese, and Chinese—contributed to swell the number of inhabitants. However difficult the task of taming and educating these various peoples seemed to be, and of eventually turning them into useful citizens, the Japanese did not shirk the responsibility of such an undertaking ; in fact, they willingly embraced the work, which they felt would ultimately redound to their credit. They did not shut their eyes to the fact that they were entering upon untried experiences. Silently and conscientiously believing in their own power of organization, the bargain was satisfactorily concluded between those charged with the negotiations on either side.

So many wonderful changes having occurred in the history of the Japanese during the last fifty years, their capabilities have been exercised to the full. They have undertaken work never dreamed of during the term of Great Peace. Each new difficulty proved an immense source of intellectual interest, requiring careful administration. The men whose energies have to-day made Japan great are those who were the first to risk everything in the past. In the days when the West was

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revealed, they were the willing students who enjoyed to the full their journeys to foreign countries, whose language, manners, and customs, were all new and untried ordeals. The zest and ardour with which they entered into the work, and of pioneering the way for others, had all the excitement of a game of chance. What chaos might have ensued had it not been for the bright star of loyalty that burnt in each heart—loyalty of the purest quality, that flings its ceaseless halo and enchantment round the Land of the Rising Sun! And brighter still will it become, as long as this most noble characteristic is preserved and fostered.

On the whole, Formosa has proved a far more important acquisition than it appeared at first when relinquished by the Chinese. The total area of the island is 2,333 square miles. Although 1,200 miles are occupied by the aborigines, there remains the greater part of the new territory to be rendered productive and useful in many ways to the Mother Country. Emigration to Taiwan will be encouraged. The Chinese who remained behind when the treaty was signed are becoming useful members of the community, having so far conformed to the laws and regulations that have been established. Many Chinese are among the native police force, forming a branch of this constraining power. The control of the combative tribes must necessarily be slow. If it is to be thorough and sure, it will require a great deal of supervision.

There are two methods of control—the Conciliatory and the Punitive. In the latter it is necessary sometimes to have recourse to military tactics. The *Aiyusen*, or guard line, is the means of separating the savage

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tribes from the more peaceable natives, and thus confining the former in territorial spaces sufficient for their habitation.

The guard line was originally instituted by the Chinese centuries ago; it was continued and perfected by the Japanese. The word *Aiyu-sen* is a compound word signifying men, or irregular troops guarding a pass or defile, chiefly in a savage district. The raids often result in loss of life, and sometimes valuable men are sacrificed, who, by prolonged faithful service, could have brought about a better state of affairs.*

The tribes are more or less hostile to each other. It remains to be seen if this condition of affairs will prove beneficial or the reverse to the rest of the foreign inhabitants.

Altogether there are nearly 700 large and small villages, outside, or on the safe side, of the *Aiyu-sen*. These are inhabited by the Saisetts, who have been rescued and partly civilized, as well as by the Tsuon, and the Bunun, the Tsarisen, the Paiwan, Piyuma, the Ami, and the Yami of Botel Tobago. These tribes differ from one another in physical characteristics, dialect, habit, and stock. There are also the Peipohuans, who are semi-civilized, and dwell among the Chinese settlers. Some of these may possibly have sprung from fierce marauders, who in past centuries were shipwrecked, from unknown islands and remained in Taiwan.

The Taiyals inhabit the large mountainous district of the Central Range. As a community they are far the most formidable of any of the inhabitants, numbering

* Through the kindness of Mr. S. Ishii, of Formosa, I subjoin this information.

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about 30,000 strong. These are the "head-hunters" of whom we have heard so much since the Japanese occupation of Taiwan. Left to themselves in the past, separated by their atrocious deeds from other tribes, they carried on their murderous attacks without interference. The dastardly warfare was quite legitimate and recognized among themselves; in point of fact, their status in their own community depended upon the skill and cunning they exhibited in securing the prize of a human head! It mattered little if the trophy belonged to one of their own tribe, or to any foreigner who happened to have ventured sufficiently near their district to make the attack feasible. For this reason the young Taiyal was and is still trained, and his mind inoculated with the poisonous conviction that, unless he secures this human trophy he cannot take his proper place, or be considered to have reached man's estate.

It is on account of this distressing state of affairs that such a large outlay has to be made, for unless the suppression of such a custom is undertaken, thoroughly dealt with, and eradicated, it will be impossible to alter the existing barbaric state of Taiwan later, when the Beautiful Island becomes in other respects an ocean colony of great promise. Thus it will be seen that the *Aiyu-sen*, or guard line, is a necessity. A large staff of military policemen—that is to say, a police force trained for military service under able Japanese officers, and a native Chinese contingent under the same régime, also local district supernumeraries drawn from the towns and villages—are always ready to act on the defensive. The force consists of over 3,000 men. Their duty lies in watching that the savages do not cross the line. From

time to time the barriers are pressed farther back in order to acquire more valuable land and forestry. The exploration is accompanied with many risks. There are no mountain paths, and there were at first no survey maps to warn the expeditionary party of perilous regions. Water has to be carried in long stems of bamboo, for the springs have not yet been tested. It is all new and untried land that is traversed. Sudden storms and days of tropical heat set in and cause delay. Moreover, when the undertaking seems too precarious, insubordination on the part of the native guides may add to the difficulties, and retard the venture. Valuable lives are in constant jeopardy. Each foot of ground has to be contested. Each tract or path has first to be trodden by the foot of some brave man in the cause of civilization. An opening has to be cut through the tangled luxuriance of primæval forests and tropical vegetation left to grow rampant for centuries. Swamp and waterfall, gorge and precipitous mountain, rocky declivity and racing or sluggish river, face the pioneer at every turn!

The 'Taiyals are known as the race who tattoo the skin. This practice exists among both men and women. It is not only resorted to as a method of tracking down any of the community who abscond, who die in battle, or who in any way, so to speak, fall out of the ranks, but the operation has to be endured in order to prove that each member of the tribe possesses a certain amount of courage. Because, as it will be explained elsewhere, tattooing requires a good show of self-command, and the ordeal is a very painful experience. The Taiyals do not succeed in making tattooing an art, as

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the Japanese did in the past. But, among other advantages, the disfiguring element is by no means one of the least of its charms to those who instituted the custom. The barbarian seldom seeks to improve his personal appearance, and particularly not the person of his wife, whose beauty, if ever she possessed any, must be destroyed as soon as she becomes his sole partner or possession for life. Tattooing is supposed to excite awe among those who do not practise or encourage this rude art, and with waving feathers around the head, and dark blue-black lines around the features, these half-clothed warriors of mountain fastnesses certainly contrive to present a formidable appearance, particularly where, added to these peculiarities, a rough weapon, decorated with long strands of jet-black hair, is brandished in the face of the intruder. These savages have not yet learnt to what beautiful symbolic uses women's greatest ornament has risen among the traditions of the more civilized Eastern races.

The Northern tribes will often decimate a whole village belonging to a more peaceable people, if they are alert enough to take the step undiscovered; but this is becoming a more difficult experiment every day under the vigilance of the large number of guardsmen posted at intervals along the lines. A system of swift communication is provided for, in order to enable the police to muster with as little delay as possible in times of sudden raids or attacks.*

The head-hunters have always been the scourge of Formosa. Even the Chinese inhabitants could not live

* *The Silent War in Formosa*, by Shinji Ishii. *Asiatic Quarterly Review*, July, 1913.

in the smallest degree of safety owing to the blood-thirsty proclivities of the aborigines, who made the mountain retreats their natural fortresses. It was as far back as the Chien-lung dynasty, 1736, that this provision for the defence of the industrial and peaceable communities was first instituted. After repeated organizations and re-organizations, the entire control of the *Aiyu-sen* has passed into the hands of the Government of Japan.

In February, 1900, the authorities promulgated a law forbidding any person under any pretext whatever to sojourn near, or to pass over the guard line into those regions at present occupied by the savage tribes. Neither may they lay claim to land or forest in the central part of Formosa. For a cordon has been drawn, and a line of demarcation established, which is unremittingly guarded. Brave men occupy stations along the route, armed for fighting if necessary. They are in touch with the nearest stations by means of telegraphic and other secret methods of communication. Violation of the above law renders offenders liable to heavy fines, or to terms of imprisonment with hard labour. Only those who are trusted with important missions, placed in their charge by the Chief of the Pacification Office, may enter this Forbidden Land.*

The term Savage Border includes, not only the line of demarcation between that portion of the country occupied by the domesticated savage and the fierce aborigines, but localities which create a certain safe distance between one and the other. The dividing line of

* *Japanese Rule in Formosa*, by Yosaburo Takiyoshi. Translated by George Braithwaite. Tokyo: Longman and Co.

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the Earthen Bulls or Embankments was determined years ago by the Chinese, and it has been recognized up to the present time as a most important institution. This was a necessary barrier during the lawless state of Taiwan in the early part of the eighteenth century, for at that time the aborigines had sunk to the lowest depths of humanity.

Notwithstanding the covert warfare that has existed in the island of Formosa between the first settlers and their Chinese conquerors, a certain amount of diffidence has been exhibited towards the greater empire. It was the increasing trouble from within that finally led the Chinese to part with both the Loo Choo Islands and Formosa. This separation and change of rule was not so eagerly sought for by the inhabitants of either island. Tributes were eagerly paid, and embassies were willingly sent to the Kingdom of the Dragon, notwithstanding the perilous journey by sea and the difficult locomotion by land. China was always considered to breathe her civilizing influence upon whatever or whoever she came in contact with.

It will be gathered from the accompanying table that the inhabitants of Formosa are unequally distributed. At present this is partly owing to the state of disorder that still exists in the island, together with the internal warfare that time alone can assuage. Not only do the Japanese have the aborigines to contend with; envy, hatred, malice, and fierce animosity, are continually being aroused between the early Chinese settlers and the original inhabitants. In point of fact the Chinese are the more cruel of the two; they are certainly the more barbaric when their passions are un-

ETHNOLOGICAL MAP OF FORMOSA

Scale 1:2 000 000

-Height in Feet-

Japanese Ri

English Mies

Kilometers

NOTE TO COLOURING

Taiyal Group

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Offoko to
Pesaderey I

REFERENCE TO SIGNS

③ Capital

○ *Prefectures, Chō*

Sub Prefectures. *Shu Cho*

• *Savage Tribes.*

- - - Prefectorial Boundary.

----- Savage

Guard-lines.

— — — — — *Runways.*

Trouty Lakes

curbed. But of these, two distant classes exist on the island, and the Japanese have enlisted a large proportion of the Chinese into their service.

In Mr. Shinji Ishii's paper on *The Silent War in Formosa* that appeared in the *Asiatic Quarterly Review*, July, 1913, we find that cannibalism is sometimes indulged in to a most repulsive extent by the Chinese, but this practice has never come under his notice as regards the head-hunters or any of the aborigines. Mr. Shinji Ishii, who has lived in Formosa for many years, tells us that he has never known of any native savage perpetrating such a horrible atrocity.

The Taiyal group has many tribes, as under :

	Tribes.	Houses.	Population.
Atayal or Taiyal	182	4,613	20,527
Vomun	144	2,072	15,610
Tsuou	39	331	2,961
Tsarsien	105	5,573	24,860
Paiwan	110	3,021	14,980
Piyuma	14	1,483	5,738
Ami	84	3,183	18,775
Peipohuans	24	150	881
	702	20,425	104,334

It is at the instigation of the Taiyals that the numerous border wars are organized. These head-hunters arm themselves with spears, and have obtained rifles, which they make use of with extreme caution, seldom missing their man when they are bent on his destruction. Formerly they used poisoned arrows, but these have been discarded for firearms since they have learnt to produce a powder, and to secretly secure shot pellets, which they cut into small pieces, both for

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economy as well as for more deadly missiles.* A Taiyal is never seen without some kind of weapon in his hand, ready for any chance opportunity of doing irreparable mischief. They govern themselves by hereditary laws of their own, concerning the land they claim as a rightful possession. Their surroundings are of the simplest, both in their domestic requirements as well as their dress. Like more barbaric tribes, they delight to make themselves hideous in the eyes of strangers for the purpose of inspiring fear. This custom finds its expression in personal disfigurement by various devices ; among others it is necessary for adults of both sexes to suffer the two large front teeth to be removed, in order to give additional unpleasantness of expression. In marriage affairs they are most exclusive concerning other tribes. No one is permitted to interfere with the decision of the contracting parties. They are strict in their morals, and have but one wife. Great rejoicings accompany the event of their first-born, when the ceremony is an occasion for feasting, sport, and cessation from work for the time being.

The Tsarisen group confine their habitations to the mountainous district north-east of Hosan-sha. They are now exhibiting more kindness and consideration towards their wives and children. They are giving up the custom of head-hunting, and do not force this traditionary training on their sons and relatives. The Tsarisen will also occasionally fraternize with the Chinese when this friendly attitude is found expedient.

The Piyuma group is composed of no less than fourteen tribes. Their territory is defined on the

* S. Ishii, *The Silent War in Formosa*.

THE
COLUMBIAN



Photo, S. Ishii.

NO. III.

AN AMI CHIEF AND HIS WIFE.

Ethnological map of Formosa in the form of a fan-shaped wedge of land, bounded by no less than four other districts, with a seaboard facing Tasho Tō, or the island of Samasana. The Piyuma district runs up to Taito (Pinan), where the Government trolley lines have already been laid, in order to traverse Karenko, the stronghold of the Ami tribe. In some measure the Piyuma have improved, particularly as regards farming and agriculture. They have become skilled in the use of implements. Moreover, they are more advanced than others in their domestic life, particularly with their preparation of food.

The Vomun tribes, dwelling on the levelled plains, are supposed to have originally migrated thither from an islet far out in the ocean. But tradition here steps in, and turns their egress into something like fable. For a time the new surroundings offered attractions, and contentment crowned the enterprise, until one day a terrible sea-monster was sighted swimming towards the shore. The irate and active nature of this apparition created alarm, for it soon became evident that to swallow up the settlers who had deserted their birthplace was the main object of its visit. Added to this imminent peril, a terrific typhoon burst over the settlement. These fierce settlers were almost *in extremis*, and between two such formidable foes seemed likely to perish. However, tradition has added that at this critical moment a monster crab appeared, possessed of superhuman strength. This crab wrestled and fought until it finally overcame the sea-serpent, who floundered away into obscurity to die of the wounds inflicted during the tussle. This legendary visitation must have

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made a good and lasting impression, for the Vomuns are now reckoned among those who are partly civilized. There is every hope of them becoming of great service to their present rulers. Buffaloes are used by them during their farming operations.

The heavy work of the rice-fields is principally assigned to these animals. They revel in the swampy and damp canals of the paddy-fields. But they are tormented with swarms of flies, which follow them in clouds and put them to endless discomfort. For this reason the buffaloes are attended by numerous flocks of birds, who in their turn rid these patient, plodding beasts of their minute, but nevertheless disagreeable, tormentors.

The buffalo is held in high estimation ; great pride is exhibited by those farmers who are fortunate enough to possess one or many. When not required for labour, they may be seen standing in tanks of water, well looked after by their owners. In the villages where agricultural industry is carried on, these docile animals are stalled in a conspicuous place in the compound, for the admiration and possible envy of the passer-by.

Other beasts of burden are rare. The transportation of materials, such as heavy guns, wood, and so forth, is mostly conducted at present in Formosa much as it was in the days of the Pharaohs, though in a more reasonable manner ; not, as of old, under the lash of the whip and the threats of the slave-masters. Tropical heat is not conducive to strenuous labour, and kindly discipline tells in the long-run among a people to whom the signs of civilization are more apparent day by day.

The Paiwans of the extreme southern point of

Taiwan are distinguished by their fierce and unpleasant appearance. These men chew the betel-nut, from which habit they seem to derive an immense satisfaction. The nut gives out a deep stain, which remains on the lips and teeth of the consumer. But whether or no it is favoured for this reason, or if mere mastication constitutes a pleasing occupation, it is hard to determine. The Paiwans are fierce and untameable at present. It was in consequence of their cruelties to the Japanese and the Loo Chooans, that the punitive expedition was undertaken in 1872. Had it not been for this outbreak, Formosa might possibly still have remained in the hands of the Chinese. Japan first claimed redress for this outrage inflicted on her people, but China did not respond to the appeal. The inertia of the Celestial Land exasperated the Japanese to such an extent that they took the law into their own hands and punished the offending Formosians. Afterwards, when the China War was ended in 1895, the victors succeeded in securing this large island as another ocean prize, and courtier to the Mikadō.

There are other tribes of less importance, who have more or less quarrelled among themselves; they have not made much advance. The fiercer of these men inhabit the mountain fastnesses on the south-east side of the island. Those who still cling together and hide within the natural walled-in mountain districts are formidable foes of the Japanese. These rock-dwellers intend to hold their own as far as they can against the encroachments of the *Aiyu-sen*, however deadly may be the resistance on either side. They will never forgive the advent of the foreigner, or the way in which the

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Chinese handed them over to the Japanese without any warning of the change of rulership, or the reason that made it necessary. These fierce men resent change of any kind; to them it is an impossible situation. They are conservative to the core, and to the hereditary code that has governed their lives for centuries. Reared for generations to consider the soil their own without dispute, they revere the land that nourishes them. They accept the wholesome sustenance that strengthens them for the battle of life as their exclusive right. They are proud in their magnificent fury, in their cunning and their prowess; and are possessed of that wonderful contempt for humanity which is almost uneradicable in the savage breast.

The name Formosa is of Portuguese origin. The early navigators who risked their lives in the stormy seas between China and the Pescadores admired Taiwan, and named it *The Beautiful Island*. The Portuguese were proud to have sighted it during their search for undiscovered land.

But, nevertheless, from the shore the wealth of Formosa, the Beautiful cannot be estimated. In past centuries the level plains received but scanty attention. It was not then known how prolific was her virgin soil, or how rich a harvest of grain and cereals and other food could be reaped by the industry of the husbandman, all to become acceptable either to sustain the population or to export to less favoured lands. Satisfactory as the returns appear in official statements of Formosa's natural productions, it is within the very heart of the island that her wealth lies waiting to be worked and secured.

At present (at least, so we learn from those competent to judge), even after nearly eighteen years of occupation, the savage strongholds exist, in some districts stronger than ever, while the problems of the future still remain unsolved. How to gain access to the inner shrine of the casket, that will enable the adventuresome Japanese to reap the reward of his enterprise, is a question so far unanswered. It is not unnatural that the wild men should resent interference and encroachments on these strongholds provided by Nature for the first settlers. To argue out the subject is worse than useless, for linguistic difficulties as yet are unsurmountable, and pacific advances are almost impossible.

The land in Formosa that is capable of cultivation is less than 1,500 feet above the sea-level. It is reserved for crops and grass; trees suitable for timber do not flourish at this low altitude. The valuable Hi-no-ki and camphor-trees thrive up to the height of 3,500 feet, and the enormous belt of forestry covers no less than 5,230,000 acres. Not only does this natural resource claim attention, but below the soil lie other treasures—gold, kerosene-oil, iron, and various ores. These give ample promise for the future.

The Kusu-no-ki, or camphor-trees, that abound in the interior of the island, attain the girth of 25 feet, a few 36 feet, and even 40 feet, in circumference. Such a tree would supply a single distillery store with material for several years. It would yield between 7,000 and 8,000 yen worth of camphor. But smaller trees are preferred as a rule. In the first place they are easier to obtain, especially in the Gilan district, situated in the north-east of the island.

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This industry is attended with serious drawbacks, for the valuable drug is produced at the cost of many lives. Armed policemen and guardsmen, private defences and patrols, have to be on the alert day and night without intermission. The Chinese, as well as the Japanese, participate in the trade. The profits are large, for the demand for the camphor is increasing.

The forests cover over 1,500 square miles, and the supply obtainable may last for many centuries. Nevertheless, one of the most important duties of the Formosian Government is to provide for the expansion of the trade by replanting a succession of the valuable trees, as well as keeping the monopoly in their own hands. On no account must there be any postponement of this undertaking.

These wonderful camphor-trees form a special feature as regards beauty. Many are of a great age. They clothe the mountains with a regal aspect, and for no consideration whatever must Taiwan be deprived of this peculiar charm. Now that new uses have been found for camphor, and the method of cutting triangular chips from the bark has proved so much more advisable, a rich return is inevitable. Camphor enters largely into the manufacture of celluloid, a substance which has superseded many others for daily requisites. It is used in the making of photographic films, and is also indispensable in the manufacture of smokeless powder, one of the most important items in modern warfare. From this we can readily understand how the demand increases. Although camphor in small quantities can be procured in Java, Cochin China, and South China; Formosa and Japan bid fair to draw in the trade to

themselves. New inventions may also be found to require its presence to render them perfect and effectual.

The management of the camphor trade is entirely in the hands of the Government. It was decided from the first to adopt a monopoly system. Firstly, in order only to produce and put on to the market camphor of a good quality; and, secondly, to regulate its production, so as to keep up the standard of excellence, and thereby organize a steady and unfluctuating supply as possible.

The aromatic wood of the camphor-tree (*Laurus camphora*, L.; *Kusu-no-ki*, Jap.) is known to most of us. The fragrance that it conveys imparts a certain sentiment, in that it gives to merchandise from the East of small articles, a particular distinctive charm.

We involuntarily seek to convince ourselves that what is offered as Japanese in manufacture is truly so by reason of some subtle and unmistakable scent. Boxes inlaid with various tinted woods, cabinets, trays, toys, and endless little inexpensive treasures, as well as dainty boxes made especially to convey gifts from one person to another, are all prepared of aromatic woods. There is a sentiment that lingers round camphor, owing to the brave Kusunoki Masashigé of the Middle Ages, whose loyalty is as enduring as the fragrance of the wood whose name he bears—lasting and purely Oriental in its true and noble quality—Kusunoki Masashigé, at whose death no camphor-tree was allowed to be felled by royal decree for a certain number of years. This decree, which was in honour of the brave deeds of this illustrious soldier, is known to every Japanese.

The process of extracting camphor for medical and

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other purposes differs in different parts of Japan and Japanese possessions where the Kusu-no-ki abounds; but the best method resorted to is that of hacking and chipping up the wood of a certain age, and placing it in a vat of water over a steady fire; then, by a clever contrivance, conducting the steam as it rises and forms from the simmering chips into boxes and tanks, where the camphor is located, collected, and separated from the camphor-oil, which also exudes during this process of steaming and preparation. Both finally become marketable substances, and are in great request.

Camphor-oil is burnt in lamps, but, unfortunately, it creates much smoke if not very carefully attended to.

In its solid form it is used for other purposes than medicine. It is invaluable for the lacquer industry, where it is selected as a refining and liquefying agent. It aids the lacist to obtain a smooth and flowing quality of lac fluid as the work proceeds. By the commingling of lac in its raw state and camphor in its solidity, the one influences the other, so that, when judiciously incorporated by means of a spoon or spatula, liquefaction sets in, and the lacquer becomes perfectly amenable to the requirements of the lacquer artist. Camphor is largely prescribed for diseases of the eye, from which the people of the Far East especially suffer, owing to the primitive method of warming their huts. At one time ophthalmia, and even blindness, were attributed to the eating of so much rice, but the real danger and cause of eye diseases lies in the manner in which a fire is lighted in one house, and holes are bored to admit the passing of the smoke through the dividing walls of the whole block. Thus the interior of many homes is

choked with inodorous fumes, most injurious to the eyes. Camphor has been used for the purpose of embalming, but the immense quantity needed to reduce a corpse into an almost imperishable mummy was too expensive to be undertaken very often, even by relations of noble families.

It has been calculated that no less than 10,000 camphor-trees are felled annually. The camphor laurel is indigenous to other countries in the East—Borneo, Sumatra, Egypt, and so forth. Like everything else, there are varieties of this useful tree and bush, varying in value by reason of their excellence and utility.

This valuable drug was introduced into Europe by the Arabs. It has for long been used as a medicine by many nations, though more particularly by the Chinese the Japanese, and other Orientals. Camphor possesses many qualities or virtues, in that it can be used either externally or internally. The odour it emits is very detrimental to insect life, particularly to the small moths, or tineæ, which infest furs and clothing, bedding, and furniture upholstery.

It is invaluable for rheumatism and gout, as well as for bruises, chilblains, chronic paralysis, and pains in the chest and limbs. When used as a liniment it has to be dissolved in alcohol. Camphor being only slightly dissoluble in water, it can be made into a julep and kept ready at hand in case of emergencies, where a slight stimulant is required, because, however long a small compressed cube remains in water, it does not throw off more than a slight supply—that is to say, the strength remains at a minimum value, and does not increase too rapidly when in contact with pure water. Whereas large doses

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of camphor are very dangerous, it proves a virulent poison when taken too freely. Experiments have been tried, with a certain amount of success, to produce artificial camphor, but, though this may meet the needs of the few, the substitute will surely be discarded in the long-run before the large quantities of the pure and true substance that the vast forests of Formosa are producing.

Sugar, so important an article of food, is represented in Formosa principally by the *Formosian Sugar Refining Company*, which was established in 1900. The progress of this industry was so rapid that two large companies soon amalgamated and became a vast concern. In 1910 the capital amounted to 12,000,000 yen. Factories were established, and a railway laid for the sole use of the manufacturers. A year or two back this concern turned out 55,000 tons alone. The demand was found to be on the increase, for sugar has always been a favoured article for consumption, though it is very seldom, if ever, taken by the natives in tea, which custom in England raises the market price considerably. Here each person as a rule consumes one pound of cube sugar a week in his tea or coffee alone, not counting that which is required for cooking purposes or for cakes and biscuits, as well as for sprinkling over dainty dishes during dinner-time. For the present sugar has still to be imported into Japan from abroad, in order to meet the call of 500,000,000 pounds a year. This will soon be altered owing to the advancement and expansion of native trade, consequent on the use of mechanical plant. Great hopes are entertained, and there is every prospect of Formosa being able alone to supply the

needs of the Japanese without importing sugar from foreign countries. Baron Shimpi Goto, who was for some time Civil Governor of Formosa, paid much attention to this particular industry. He visited the southern districts in which the sugar-canes were cultivated, and desired to improve the particular method of raising the cane that was at first grown by native farmers. He found that better success would crown the efforts, and make the industry wider known and patronized, if new canes were imported into the plantations. At first there was a feeling of uneasiness on the part of the farmers to part with their stock, but Baron Goto was able to do a great deal towards elevating the present sugar-refining factories and raising them to the high standard of excellence they have now attained.

Sugar is grown in the middle and southern provinces or districts of Taiwan. It is not by any means a Government monopoly. The Meiji Refining Company is the most prominent among the many private enterprises that have been started during the last seventeen years of Japan's occupation of the island. Formosa sugar is rising in reputation as its finer qualities become more generally known and consumed in the East.

It is much to be lamented that the fierce typhoons that pass over the island often destroy sugar crops, tea crops, and other industrial enterprises. During two fierce typhoons that followed one another in rapid succession in August, 1912, it has been estimated that the sugar crop alone has suffered a loss of no less than 20,000,000 yen.

Rice, another article of diet much in request, is grown in Formosa, and highly valued as an article for con-

sumption. It is, and always has been, the national food of the aristocrat and the well-to-do, not so much the food of the peasant as we have been often led to believe. The cereals that take less time to cultivate, and that require less attention, form the staple diet of the East, such as millet and red beans, these are the substitutes for our English bread or Irish potatoes. The rice-fields that are situated in the moist, hot valleys possess a certain amount of picturesqueness, as well as affording work alike for women and men. The grain is not nearly so much favoured in our country as it should be, principally because few of our cooks will take the necessary pains to prepare it in a perfect manner. We therefore often miss a delicate form of nourishment and an elegant comestible.

Bamboo is found everywhere in the Far East, a useful plant that supplies many requirements both for the household, buildings, bridges, water-courses, and other necessities. Rattan, which is also taken for these purposes occasionally, is both strong, pliant, and favoured for its superior growth.

Opium is still greatly in demand among the natives of Formosa. This pernicious product has had the most demoralizing effect. It is the most difficult problem to cope with. Great restrictions are placed upon its consumption, so much so that it was prohibited to be indulged in by those who had not already contracted opium-smoking previous to the Japanese taking possession of the island; or, if insisted on, the drug is supplied at almost prohibitive prices. The Japanese Government has had to show an immense deal of firmness, tact, and forbearance, in the matter. In ten years

40,000 smokers abandoned the fatal vice, but the possibility of utterly stamping it out eventually is not yet within sight.

Salt is manufactured in Formosa in considerable quantities by means of sea-water evaporation; and for this purpose a large strip of land on the eastern side of the island is given up to the production of this necessary commodity. So great is the interest shown in this industry that in time Formosa will be able, not only to supply its own needs, but export to foreign countries.

Salt being a Government monopoly, the salt farms and salt manufacture are strictly preserved. The sale is watched over; all salt-supplies must be reported to the Government. Without salt the aborigines cannot exist in their mountain homes. They are obliged to descend to the plains to procure salt in the markets. It is then that items of interest concerning their movements can be obtained by the *Aiyu*, ever on the alert for news of this kind. The savages will on these occasions sometimes fraternize with other tribes who are buying stores and provisions.*

Coal is found in large quantities near Keelung, in the extreme north; therefore it will prove convenient for exportation. It is principally that known as the "fatty" quality; nevertheless it is good and useful, and worthy to compete with the various other kinds of coal found within Japanese territory.

The supply of coal is increasing. In the time of Koxinga it was called "black fire-nourishing rocks.

* J. W. Davidson, *The Island of Formosa, Past and Present*. Macmillan and Co.

The first mining was undertaken at Keelung, during the Chinese occupation of the island. Other foreigners, including English, French, Spaniards, and Portuguese, have shown much concern from time to time in this product. The important position of Formosa as a coaling-station has turned much attention towards the mines.

The coal was discovered by the outcroppings along the foot of the hills, and there was evidence of seams being extended beneath the elevated peaks. This points to the fact that in the hill districts, where the savages have congregated, mines of wealth may be waiting ready to be worked. But there are difficulties and drawbacks to be overcome before this dream can become realized.

Tobacco is not unknown, but as yet not plentiful. Sweet-potatoes, barley, wheat, beans and peas, peanuts, sesame, millet, mountain indigo, tree indigo, and indigo balls, are all reckoned among the agricultural products, increasing in value yearly, in consequence of the better cultivation of the land and the spirit of commercial enterprise.

The mineral products are gold, gold-dust, and silver, added to those above-mentioned of coal and sulphur.

Raw material for clothing, consisting of jute, hemp, and flax, crowd into the market.

Among the fauna of the island may be enumerated panther, deer, wild-boar, bear, goat, monkey, squirrel and flying-squirrel, wild-cat, and occasionally the green snake. Of birds, pheasants, ducks and geese, snipe, flycatchers, kingfishers, shrikes, larks and others, may be

named. Turtle, flying-fish, and several kinds of shell-fish abound, as well as ordinary species. These last form a substantial item of food, as well as for exportation, to Japan.

The Japanese are extremely energetic, for the resources of Taiwan are worth the venture. The work of progress goes steadily forward. There is every reason to hope that all modern inventions and conveniences enjoyed by Europeans will find their footing in this ocean island. There are literally mines of wealth to be worked, and labour will be abundant for skilled and willing hands. Although severe measures were at first necessary, the people are slowly settling down. Education, wise administration, and the dynamic condition, is giving to trade a peaceful aspect.

Taiwan is governed by a Governor-General. Since 1895 three Governors have resigned. The present in office is General Count Samata Sakuma.

The island of Formosa is 225 miles long, and from 60 to 80 miles wide in the broadest part. It has a coast-line measuring 731 miles. The rich, fertile, productive plain of Giran, or Gilan, lies to the east. The soil is prolific. The fine mould that covers the surface will be the agriculturist's best confederate. Karenko, Taito, Pinang, are also situated to the east; while to the west many villages nestle, as it were, at the foot of the central mountainous range—Shinchiku, Hakka-ko, Taichu, and Shoka. Rokko and Anping, which are two very important stations, lie lower down, south-west of the island. Communication of all kinds has been established between Anping to the Makung Island and islets that lie near to the opposite shores of China and in the

Gulf of Formosa. Takao and Hosan are also important stations. A State railway is laid the whole length of the western side of the island, from Keelung, the coal district, to Takao.

In the north, Tamsui, Toshien, and Taihoku, are situated. In the last-named a Ladies' Charity Society has been established, over which the Baroness Goto and Madame Oshima formerly presided. Of the various works undertaken by this society may be mentioned the performance of charity concerts, relief of ex-criminals, medical relief, housing of the poor in Takao, improvements of the bath-houses in Hokuto, contributions towards the expenses of the boys' night schools and other charitable institutions.

This method of elevating the poor of Formosa was first tried as early as the seventeenth century, when Koxinga and his family ruled the island for three generations—namely, from 1662 to 1682. During that term an organized system of housing the poor of all ages existed in what was then the Northern Capital. When, however, the rulership was handed over to the Chinese, this was not carried on in a satisfactory manner, but was more or less abused and neglected. In 1895 the Japanese, on acquiring this their first colony, with zest and surprising energy, expanded the original intention of Koxinga, and organized charitable institutions in the towns of Tainan, Kagi, and Shoka, as well as the Pescadores. The work begun under the organization of the Baroness Goto and her able staff, is carried on by other ladies. During the Japan-Russo War concerts were held for the benefit of the poor; money flowed in, for the concert was a new and delightful experience to

the people, who thoroughly appreciated the efforts made on their behalf. The Volunteer Nursing Association, the Ladies' Patriotic League, and the Red Cross Society, all benefited by the enthusiasm and sympathy that crowned the artistic efforts of all who participated in the venture.

The home for the relief of ex-criminals has proved most beneficial. Instead of being crowded together, after the term of their imprisonment is ended, in dirty, over-inhabited homes, they are now kept as far apart as possible, have good healthy employment offered to them, and, what is best of all, wherever it is possible, plots of land to cultivate. This always proves an immense source of emulation.

But, like everything else undertaken for the benefit of the lower orders of humanity, nothing appeals to them so deeply as care of their bodies during sickness, disease, and epidemics. The medical work is always the first to prosper, and the Red Cross Hospital of Formosa has now its own beds to offer for the comfort of destitute sufferers. The number of free patients amount to many thousands yearly. Thus, in a land where plague and infectious diseases carry off hundreds in one village alone, it can be readily understood how the mitigation of suffering, and the comfort afforded by care and kindness, come to be regarded as almost miracles among them.

In Takao, one of the most beautiful ports in Formosa, on the southern entrance, there is now erected a neat white building, which stands out in graceful contrast to the glorious setting of verdure. This building is known by the name of Hei-wa-gai, or "Peace Street." It

is a settlement exclusively appropriated for the housing and accommodation of poor labourers.*

The Night School for Boys may be said to be in a flourishing condition, considering the short time it has been started, which was in 1897. With this school was affiliated the East Gate School, and the new building contains many classrooms. The Formosa Government contributes 1,000 yen a year, for much help is expected from the young students who are benefiting by the tuition and education which is imparted to them by a qualified staff of teachers.

The industrial enterprises undertaken in Taiwan have already cost the Government of Japan more than £10,000,000, out of which £3,000,000 has been spent in railways. This has been necessary in order to keep up a rapid communication between Formosa, China, and the Mother Country, for the purpose of transmitting goods, as well as passengers desirous of travelling to and fro on business or pleasure. The Government has spared no pains to make the permanent way a paying concern, and £130,000 was the net profit in a very short time.

But it is agriculture that will save the land and convert a savage people into a useful community. It will give it ultimately an importance that will reflect glory on Japan's best colony. The mines must be worked, as well as the soil made productive. A Governor-General is held responsible for the welfare of the people. He issues orders, and his word is law. He has a Council at his command. Legislature, courts of

* Report of the Ladies' Charity Society of Formosa, published in Taiho-ku, Formosa, February, 1910.

justice, and private lawyers, have been instituted and appointed.

Education is being provided for all classes. The Japanese language will, in all probability, be the language of the future. At present the method of communication by word of mouth from one section or tribe to the other is most unsatisfactory. There is a confused babel of many languages—Chinese, Spanish, American, Dutch, and others. This confusion has retarded the progress considerably in the past; for the interpreters were not to be relied on, and duplicity reached an unprecedented height wherever it could be carried on without detection. Raids organized by savages were of constant occurrence, perpetual intrigues went on, and disloyalty retarded progress. Police inspectors have been appointed for the whole island, and particular attention is paid to the education of all constables, including the use of firearms and the system of military drill; for none of the aborigines dare trespass, without full consent, over the line of demarcation laid down by official jurisdiction.

There are nearly 150 schools—language, normal and technical—where such useful work as laying the telegraphic and telephonic systems can be learnt. The natives are admitted under favourable conditions, if they qualify themselves, in view of accepting useful employment.

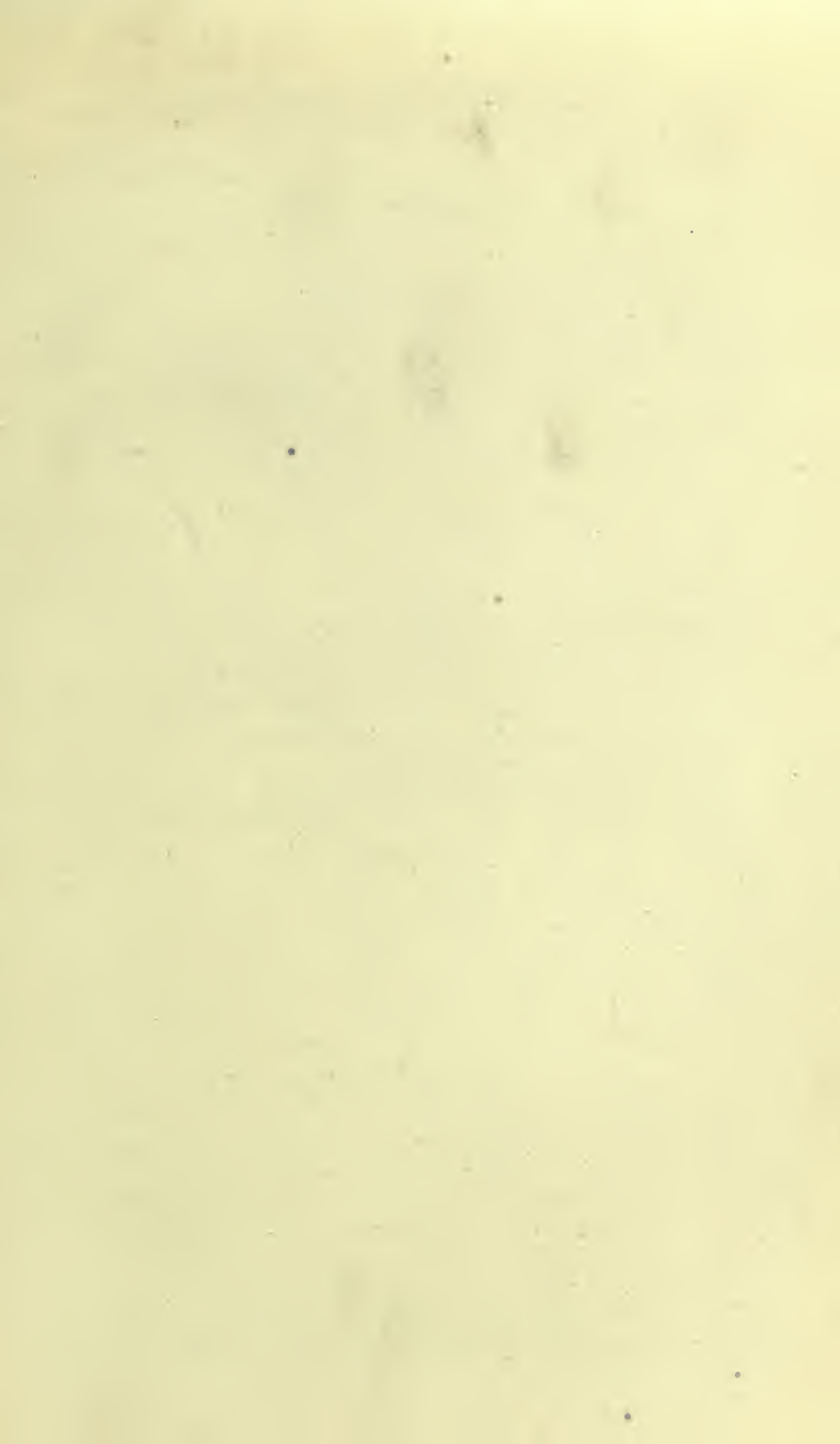
Posts have been established between Formosa and other countries, through which in a very short time no less than 7,516,000 letters were transmitted. Telegraphs and cables from Keelung to Japan, and from Tamsui to Foochow, have been laid; also telephones organized,

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through which no less than 5,116,312 messages were sent, both Governmental and private.

The above statements prove no slow growth of civilization. It is sure and certain. Even the natives, indolent, warlike, and aggressive, will wonder at the changes which are passing over the island. They have seen many rulers. The Dutch first established a footing in the island; in the sixteenth century the Spanish and the Portuguese endeavoured to make their sway felt; the Chinese sojourned with this end in view, and remained the longest a paramount Power. But the island having now been handed over to those to whom territory is an absolute necessity, it will remain Japanese. Its position in regard to the Pacific is of great importance, and the valuable supplies of many articles and substances of commerce will prove of immense interest both in the present and in the future. It seems, indeed, that Japan intervened at the right moment, and it is hoped she will benefit both herself and her acquisition by her timely aid. Insubordination had mostly been the order of the day, since those who sought to subdue the barbaric natives have sometimes been most cruel and unjust. The Chinese did not succeed in their treatment, for the rulers were not judiciously chosen. Those who were entrusted with the work of civilizing in the past in no way contributed to the credit of the undertaking.

Mount Morrison is the crowning glory of the land, for it far exceeds in height Fuji San, the peerless and beloved sacred mountain of Japan proper. Mount Morrison has deprived Fuji San of the palm of being Japan's highest peak. Mount Morrison is 14,270 feet in height, and has been renamed Niitaka Yama, "New



No. III.—FORMOSA.

MAP OF NORTHERN FORMOSA

— SHOWING THE DISTRICT OCCUPIED BY THE ABORIGINES



High Mountain." Then, even out-vieing Fuji San, comes Mount Sylvia, which is 12,480 feet, while Fuji San measures 12,365 feet, a height easy to remember because of the 12 for the months and the 365 for the days of the year. Mount Sylvia has been renamed also by the Japanese, and is now called Setzuzar, "The Snowy Mountain." Mount Morrison is situated just under the Tropic of Cancer, which runs through the island of Formosa. See Ethnological map.

The eastern shore presents a remarkable appearance. Magnificent cliffs from 1,500 to 2,500 feet rise up in wonderful grandeur sheer from the sea. These form suitable ramparts against forces from without, breaking the violence of the typhoons and wind-storms prevalent during certain times of the year. Of the rivers which lie on the western side, the Kotansui and the Seinakai are the most important. Earthquakes occur from time to time. Sulphur springs abound. Snow is almost unknown. The climate is damp and hot, at times unhealthy and malarious. The vegetation of all kinds is very fine; both trees and flowers are abundant. Forests clothe the slopes of Mount Morrison for 6,000 feet upwards, orchids and lilies and trailing plants spring and flourish, for Nature confiscates to her use the slopes of the mountains and paints them in rich colouring. Mount Morrison, although in height it exceeds Fuji San, is not so imposing, for it rises gently out of the long range of hills and lower mountains, and therefore does not compete with Fuji San's almost isolated grandeur.

Formosa is noted for its teas, especially for that kind which comes to us under the name of Oolong. It is

long in the leaf, and of an agreeable flavour, but too pungent to partake of, according to our English tastes, without being first judiciously blended. This tea was much *en évidence* at the Japan British Exhibition, where a special tea-house was erected for its consumption, and where different qualities could be obtained for trial.

Formerly, owing to the somewhat repulsive method of preparing this leaf for the market, Oolong was shunned; but we have lately been assured that the process of treading the leaf by natives, which was resorted to in order to preserve the peculiar flavour from mechanical appliances, has been abandoned. The contact with metal was supposed to have deprived this particular and highly fragrant tea of its virtues. It is now prepared much like all other tea placed on the market.

There is a legend in connection with the finding of Oolong tea, for in many records of the East that which was found useful for man and good for his sustenance generally had some story of its origin attached to it, which was handed down to posterity.

Oolong stands for dragon or snake. Oolong is very black and very long in the leaf. It has a wonderful fragrance in the cup, and has more or less always proved a favourite among the various brews.

The legend tells how a farmer, who happened to be out on a ramble of investigation, found a black snake twisted round a tea plant. Thinking over the event, he concluded that there must have been some special attraction in this particular shrub, and, intent on investigating the matter, after the reptile had slunk away, cautiously gathered a few of the top leaves,

which he took home, dried, and brewed. The result was quite satisfactory. The effusion proved pleasant to the palate, being both sweet and aromatic.*

Among the many improvements of a pacific nature that have been taken in hand, the attention that has been directed towards the construction of the important harbour at Keelung commands praise and comment. This will in time prove of lasting benefit to many beside the Japanese. A temporary pier was constructed after the dredging of the harbour in 1902. This erection enabled large steamers of about 3,000 tons to land passengers without inconvenience, direct, without having to call in the aid of sampans or any other light boats, as was formerly the case. The harbour affords anchorage for steam-launches, junks, and other smaller craft. The length of the pier is $448\frac{1}{2}$ feet; the width, which will be ultimately extended, is at present 24 feet. The expenditure of the outlay during the first period amounted to 2,159,663 yen, and now the work is going forward in order to render the accommodation as perfect as possible. Plant and machinery that had to be purchased will all come in useful for future undertakings. It was procured from Japan, England, and other centres. Two small islands, Haukan and Haubo, which lay in the sea opposite the old railway-station, have been blasted and dredged 30 feet below the water in order that their reefs do not impede anchorage. It is estimated that Keelung Harbour will be completed in the spring of next year.

Marine animals and fishes are numerous. They

* This legend is from *Japanese Rule in Formosa*, by Yoshiburo Takyoshi, translated by G. Braithwaite.

are either procured for food, or, if taken in large quantities, are utilized for dressing the land—that is to say, the coarser species are relegated to this purpose. The list includes a variety of fish—herrings, sardines, mackerel, tunny, bonito, yellow-tail (tai), grey mullet, salmon, prawns, shrimps, crabs, and oysters. The deadly octopus is, alas ! also found.

The laws relating to fishery operations were for some time vague ; these required revision when it was found that the trade of the sea had begun to reach a certain stage of extension. New regulations came in force in 1911. The organization of a guild followed, which held out privileges to those who became members by choice or election. Certain rules of a distinctly advantageous character were instituted for the benefit of those who placed themselves under the protection of this community. The islanders needed the co-operation, for those whose lives depended on their fishing were bound to seek aid and understand the science of their business.*

The Japanese were formerly content with inshore fishing, conducted on the old-fashioned system, with a small amount of impedimenta. But, like everything else, the spirit of enterprise has aroused the fisherman as well as the Government. Attention has been directed to marine food, and its value has increased. Frail fishing-boats are no longer in use. Craft modelled after the patterns of other nations have been imitated and admitted into the service. No less than 1,000 of these, consisting of sailing vessels, steamers, and boats fitted with motors, are now in use. This has enabled the

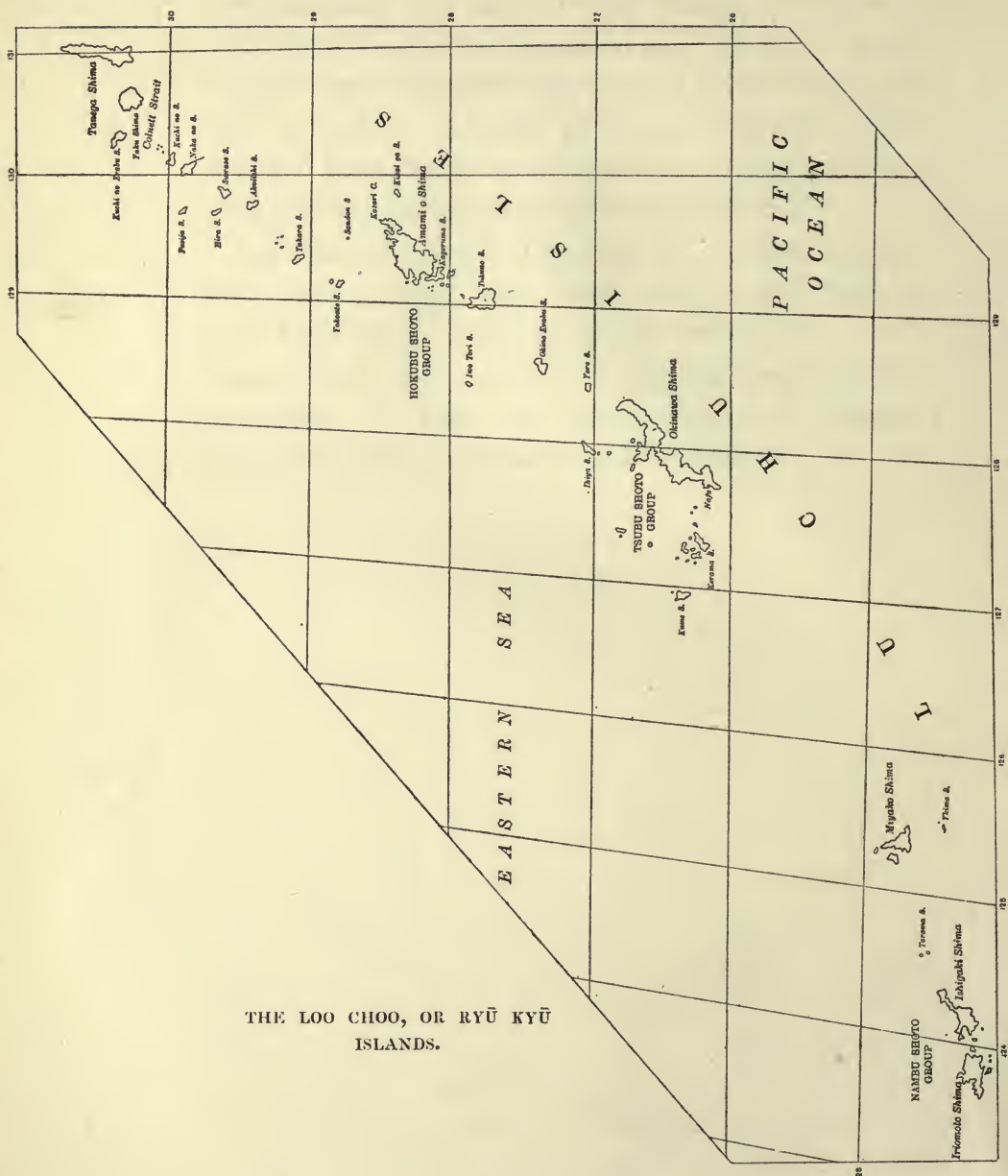
* *Financial Annual of Japan*, 1912.

Japanese to compete with other nations in the tinned and canned exportation of fish, for many edible species for this purpose are plentiful in her northern rivers at certain times and seasons. Freezing apparatus and other secret methods are adopted in this trade. Delicate species are bred with great scientific care, even to the making of artificial lakes for the purpose. Even the culture of spawn has been undertaken in tanks and swampy rice-fields, trenches, and water-beds. All this points to improvement, together with careful organization. At one time, not so very long ago, the fierce Taiyal tribes of Formosa's mountain-ranges descended to the plains to conduct fishing after their own methods. They prosecuted this industry, for their own use at least, by means of a poisonous fluid which they dropped into the rivers and temporarily polluted the water. This was called *Bontin*. It was a lazy and easy way of acquiring their gain. As the unwholesome ingredient was diffused, the fish rose to the surface gasping for air, and were eagerly captured without much difficulty and prepared for consumption before the poison had time to take effect to any deleterious extent. This we may conclude, as the practice would not have been continued had it been otherwise.

From an old volume of P. F. von Siebold, which gives a most interesting history of the keen activity of explorers in the seventeenth century, there is much that is calculated to arouse our respect for those who hazarded their lives for the sake of "bringing man nearer unto man." I quote the following paragraph :

"Commander Maerten Gerrits Vries of the flute *Castricum* arrived safely on November 18, 1643, in the

No. IV.—JAPAN.



II

THE LOO CHOO, OR RYŪ KYŪ ISLANDS

THESE islands, which form a group in themselves, numbering from twenty to fifty, including large and small, inhabited or desolate, are, taken collectively, one of the most interesting possessions of Japan. There are many reasons for making this statement, but chiefly because they differentiate widely from other dependencies under the Japanese flag.

Looking at the map on the eastern side of Japan proper, we are aware that several groups of islands dot the Eastern Pacific. They are mostly habitable, and along the coast-line from Kamschatska to Australia ; these, or portions of these at least, in prehistoric times, must have broken away from the mainland. Possibly, Japan itself had a nearer proximity to the great continent of China, or Russia on the western side.

To strengthen this belief we have always to remember that the convulsions of Nature were fierce and terrific, as well as very sudden, east of Asia. The Kuriles, Yeso, and other islands, from north to south being volcanic, bear out this testimony. In consequence of this, the characteristics of the people who inhabit them supply interest alike for the explorer, the ethnographer, and the ethnologist.

The islands under consideration are known to us by several synonyms. The foreigner has given them the

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name of Loo Choo, the natives call them Doo Choo, the Japanese Ryū Kyū, and the Chinese Liu Ch'u. But these are by no means all. There exists a still greater variety of appellations, each of which has a different etymological value.

The name of the largest northern island in the group is *Oshima-wa*, whose chief port is Naze, and is under the prefecture of Kagoshima, Ken of the mainland. The central large island is *Okina-wa*, the capital of which is Naha, where the Japanese Governor resides, while the southern and extreme cluster is named *Saki shima-retto*, which means "a string of islands." The southern portion includes three of fairly large dimensions, respectively called Ishigaki-jima, Iromoto, and Yori-no-kuni.

The northern group was in the hands of a very able Governor-General, H. E. Baron Narahara. The central group, Okina-ken, is under the prefectures of Kagoshima, which faces Okina-ken from the mainland.

The capital of the Loo Choo is Shuri, whose port is Naha, called *Okina-wa* by the Japanese. It is reckoned that the group consists of about 1,000 square miles of land, a measurement of 768 miles of coast-line. Longitude, 127° to 130°; latitude, 26°, 28°, 30'.

The Ryū Kyūs fall like a cluster of emeralds or a necklace of precious gems into the Pacific. They are rich in vegetation of certain kinds, some being amply dowered by Nature, and favoured with her smiles. But others are more severely treated by the fierce typhoons that batter at the lofty cliffs and mountainous elevations of granite, slate, limestone, quartz, and so forth, sending thrills of fear through the hearts of the placid inhabitants.

Rain falls at other seasons ceaselessly and assists the rich vegetation to prosper, for the Kuro Stream passes close by, and the air is mild and soft. These Emerald Isles are a possession of rare promise. The scenery is unlike that of Japan ; the dunes are extensive and bare in places. The waving plantations of coarse rush grass and pliant bamboo do not lend to the landscape their artistic attributes. Open plains stretch out for miles, for forests are scarce, only represented by tall weather-beaten pines, scattered here and there.

The aspect of *Oshima-wa* is therefore more distinguished than that of *Okina-wa*, where the hills are more levelled and softened down in outline. Tall pines and palms and banana-trees favour this more restful group, and sago-trees alternate the forestry.

The Loo Choos curve away from the Motherland as if some swift current or fierce tempest had influenced them towards Formosa's rockbound coast on the eastern side. In the distance, far away, a blue hazy line of hills zone the horizon's rim.

The chief port of Miyako Island very much resembles the primitive charm of our old English villages, with its homesteads covered with thatch, with whitened walls and small windows—houses or huts, just one story high, but without chimneys in the roof. These homesteads nestle together, standing the wear and tear of rain and tempests ; artistic in their structure, and, after all, more restful and commanding of admiration than the unsightly habitations of the industrial classes of England to-day. The warm influence of the Kuro Stream has enriched this cluster of islands, for they are surrounded by coral reefs, tender shades of pink and blue and red

fringe the water-line, vegetation of the richest dyes finds a footing, and beneath the sea lovely colours are visible in the clear depths of pure waters. The following lines seem so appropriately to describe the condition of the surroundings of the Ryū Kyū Islands that the impulse to quote them is irresistible :

“ Deep in the wave is a coral grove,
 Where the purple mullet and the gold-fish rove,
 Where the sea-flower spreads its leaf of blue
 That is never wet with the falling dew,
 In bright and changeful beauty shine
 Far down the green and glassy brine.
 The floor is of sand as the mountain drift,
 And the pearl shells spangle the flinty snow,
 From coral reefs the sea-plants lift
 Their buds where the tides and the billows flow.
 The water is calm and still below ;
 The winds and the waves are absent there ;
 And the flowers are bright as the stars that glow
 In the motionless fields of upper air.
 There, with its waving blades of green,
 The sea-flag streams through the silent water,
 And the crimson leaf of the dulse is seen
 To blush, like a banner bathed in slaughter.”*

Mr. Charles Leavenworth, in his most delightful account of the Loo Choo Islands, which appeared in the *East of Asia Magazine*, described, amongst other interesting features of the lovely surroundings, “shoals of little fishes of a deep cerulean blue, darting here and there through the forest that covers the bottom of the sea, their little bodies flashing brightly in the sunlight.”

The islands are blessed with a mild, salubrious atmo-

* This poem was learnt as a holiday task many years ago. The author of this monograph hopes that the poet will overlook any mistake in the telling, being unable to obtain the *School Circle of Gradation*, from whence this lovely description was committed to memory.

sphere, with neither extreme of heat or cold. The rainfall, however, is excessive, but the temperate climate is conducive to the luxuriant vegetation. The tempests balance the existing state of moisture by the fierce winds drying the soil. It is stated that two crops of rice can be gathered in yearly. Moreover, as rubber-trees can thrive upon the soil, to which many speculators are turning their attention, these verdant isles will soon leap into prominence. At present there are but few foreign residents, except five French missionaries. The stranger is neither wanted nor welcomed. The inhabitants are a bright and contented community. They are mostly farmers, disposing of their products and industries among themselves, or forwarding goods and comestibles to Kagoshima, their nearest commercial port.

They rear, and live principally on, the sweet-potato. This is their staple food. For fruit they grow the banana, cocoa-nuts, and beans. For cereals they cultivate rice and sago. Their meat is pork. There are extensive, active pork markets where pigs are bought and sold. The rearing of this porcine domestic and useful animal is commended and encouraged. The flesh is eaten; the blood is also a useful commodity. The Loo Chooans produce a lovely and intensely bright red lacquer, whose beauty and worth is known to most lovers of art treasures from the Far East. In colouring it is quite a departure from most of the lacquered industrial objects. But a stronger make to that which is known to collectors is extensively in demand among the Japanese for domestic purposes.

Each island, or island group of the Eastern Pacific, has its own individuality of manufacture. In Formosa

are manipulated filigree silver ornaments and jewellery that far exceed the filigree work of other countries. This industry is undertaken by the Chinese settlers on the western side of the island. Yeso's speciality is shown in materials less costly, chiefly in wood and willow. The lacquer industry of this group employs many hands, owing to the amount of labour necessary to bring it to perfection. It must go through thirteen or fourteen stages at least before a really good piece can be pronounced useful and perfect.

Red lacquer must be carefully treated. It will not bear being exposed to the air or to bright sunlight. In a very dry atmosphere it becomes cloudy and dull, at least if we may judge the effect produced upon it by our English climate.

Many articles are made besides drinking-vessels, lovely little rice-bowls, sweetmeat boxes, cake-plates, and other necessities. Square writing-boxes are often supplemented with additional treatment in the way of raised flowers and other designs, carved out of a kind of fine cement, and fixed on after the necessary tints have been supplied as a groundwork. There is another form of decoration. Over the foundation, while moist, patterns in gold are traced, or incised, or gold-dust is sifted into the lacquer in the design of some deep symbolic object, which is transferred to the lovely red surface. In this industry these workers share the brotherhood, and are placed on a footing with the industrial classes, of Dai Nippon.

Looms are set up and worked, as is usual in the East, chiefly by women. Hempen materials are woven to supply needed garments, though the breadths are narrow

and not particularly delicate in texture. A fine silk or cotton material, as well as coarse hempen fabric, engages the attention of the industrial class, and is in all cases the result of hand labour. Coal is also found in the islands, but this is chiefly exported to Formosa, and from thence to other centres.

The population is estimated from 976,000 to 1,000,000 souls, of which the proportion of women is only slightly in excess of the men. These figures include from 4,000 to 5,000 Japanese, who are distributed all over the islands. In appearance the people of the Ryū Kyūs somewhat resemble the Japanese, only they are rather better-looking, that is to say, they have not such pronounced features—flat noses or oblique eyes. They are rather taller, and are well built. They are of a calm, happy temperament. They are particularly fortunate in the choice made of Governors, for at present Mr. S. Hibi is appointed to look to their interests.

In matters of costume the models of Japan have been adopted, with slight variety. But here, again, the men practise little conceits of their own in the matter of head-gear or hair ornaments. This, however, is only a mild and inoffensive remnant of a barbaric tradition. Their dress or coats receive much consideration. There are rules of courtesy to be observed in respect of patterns selected. One has to avoid displaying the design of another, and, though many patterns only vary slightly, they should never be exactly imitated by men of inferior classes. Hats or hair ornaments are matters of great concern, particularly among the men. The people seem to be a fusion of the two races from Yeso in the north and the extreme of Formosa in the south. But they

do not even exhibit the mild barbaric nature or the gruesome customs of the inert Ainus, or the fierce, uncivilized savagery of the Formosian head-hunters, neither have they emulated the keen activity of the Japanese.

The history of these islands commenced to become interesting in the twelfth century. They were at that time ruled over by a King whose father fled thither after a life of great excitement experienced in Japan.

From the twelfth century and onwards Japan was more or less in a constant state of revolt. One clan after another fought for the coveted supremacy of military rulership.

This was partly owing to the extreme reverence that was felt towards a Sovereign of Divine descent, who was considered too sacred a person to actively participate in the affairs of State. In the past centuries of memorable events great men arose, doughty warriors, who turned the tide of conflict hither and thither. No sooner was one feud pacified than another freshly organized strife between the clans marred the peace of the country.

In order to escape vengeance from one party or the other, when their intrigues failed, those who could flee the scene of action in safety sought refuge or were banished to these outlying habitable lands.

As the famous heroes, Yoshitsuné and Benkie, are said to have fled to Yeso, and become respectively King and courtier among the Ainus, the beloved hero Tametomo became associated with the Ryū Kyū Islands. This celebrated warrior is known to us as Hachiro Tametomo, the eighth son of General Tameyoshi, of the House of Minamoto. He was the brother of Yoshitomo, and uncle to the Shōgun Yoritomo and Yoshitsuné.

Tametomo, as we see, belonged to a noble line of historical personages. Like all heroes, in youth he was wild and reckless, daring and disobedient. It would seem that, unless these bad qualities initialed their career, the heroes of Japan in the Middle Ages would never have become renowned. Tametomo was skilled in warfare, especially in the use of the bow. This was the deadly weapon during the wars of the Gempei. Iron-headed arrows were selected by the archers. These arrows were not only deadly instruments; they were works of art, and even of beauty, in themselves. Upon these missiles were engraved patterns and symbols that conveyed secret messages to those who relied upon them in the day of battle. When quite a young man, Tametomo was banished by his father Tameyoshi to Kiushiu, who, in the hope of his rebellious nature being quelled, was glad to feel he was far from the theatre of war and disquietude, for the ex-Emperor Toba's two sons both aspired to the vacant throne. Tametomo and his father were on the side of the elder son, Sutoku; the Taira's were on the side of Go Shirakawa, the younger son.

Tametomo was a desperate archer, whose aim was sure and precise. He therefore carried everything before him, and this confounded his enemies at every turn. His cunning and strategy were unprecedented. The deadly hatred between the Taira and Minamoto clans was long and fierce. It was during this turbulent epoch that the fame of the Minamoto burned as a shining light for others to follow. His was no will-o'-the-wisp glory, but his name acted as a magic spell, and to this day illuminates the pages of Japan's past history.

Tametomo conquered the province of Kiushiu, where

he lived and reigned as a Prince among the people. But in his character was exemplified the belief that, however fierce a warrior, there was a tender spot in his iron heart, which proved that the fiercest natures are essentially human after all. For when Tametomo heard that, through his rebellious and reckless deeds, his noble father, General Tameyoshi, had been imprisoned, and that his life was in danger, Tametomo gave up all the land he had subdued in Southern Japan. He presented himself to those in power and authority, and resigned every other hope in order to save his sire.

Even the enemies of Tametomo admired this filial trait in his character. They dealt leniently with this desperate warrior, inasmuch that they did not deprive him of life. But they confined him for a time in a strong iron cage (a favourite form of cruelty and imprisonment during the barbaric age of China and Japan). They also cut the sinews of Tametomo's arm in view of depriving him of his brilliant accomplishment, for it was rumoured that it was owing to one of his arms being longer than the other that he had gained such a mastery over his beloved weapon, and manipulated it with so much success.

Tametomo, after many vicissitudes, sought flight from his enemies. Shortly after they returned to the capital, his aged parent and his brother were put to death by the Taira party. Tametomo's efforts proving fruitless in the cause of re-establishing Sutoku—the elder son of the ex-Emperor Toba, for whom he had fought so fiercely—he determined to leave Japan and pass over to the Ryū Kyū Islands, or settle at Oshima. When the opportunity came, he chartered some perilous

barque, and settled in the islands unmolested for a time. There he lived a peaceful life, receiving homage, kindness, and consideration from the inhabitants, who made him a Prince, and eventually a King. His son Shunten succeeded him in A.D. 1189.

We do not read that any aggressive policy marred this enterprise. On the contrary, the successive generations were beloved as rulers. The offspring of King Shunten flourished, and a peaceful state of affairs moulded the character of the inhabitants of the Ryū Kyū. They sent an ambassador annually, with presents to the Shōgun of Japan, from 1451 and onwards; but growing lax in this duty and undertaking in the seventeenth century, when the Shōgunate was more firmly established, and Iyé-yasu and his successors exhibited great autocracy, the Prince of Satsuma chastised the Ryū Kyūans severely for their negligence, and constituted a dual sub-fief in conjunction with the reigning King. This state of affairs continued till the time of the Restoration. It is said that an organized invasion was set on foot even during the sojourn of Hachiro Tametomo, but that the fleet was destroyed miraculously by his prowess and the terror he aroused in the breasts of his antagonists. His arm healed in the mild and beautiful climate, and his sinews gained a greater amount of physical power.

But these are not all of the events that might have marred these happy isles. China, ever on the defensive in her traditions, as the Civilizer of all the Far East, and her dependencies, called for suzerainty, and claimed tribute, so that for some time the islanders had to pay double fees.

Eventually the Japanese refused to admit China's claims, and after many negotiations it was decided that the King of the Ryū Kyū should be brought more or less a captive to Japan, and that in future this archipelago should be under a Japanese prefecture. This all came about owing to the Chinese refusing to chastise the Formosians for great cruelty and murder done on several of these islands over which they claimed joint control.

During the time of the persistent appeals on the part of the Americans for the opening of the new ports of Japan, the Ryū Kyū islands were found a useful station for Japanese supervision, where messages might be conveyed and foreign ships harboured. Many pretty legends or traditions concerning Tametomo are to be found in Madame Ozaki's *Warriors of Old Japan*. They all prove that he became much subdued during his sojourn in the Ryū Kyūs, and, in consequence of the gentler side of his nature predominating amid the influences of his peaceful surroundings, he was much beloved by the friendly inhabitants. It was from the advent of Tametomo and onward up to the Restoration that the history of the Loo Choos became interesting and full of events. The last King died at Tokyō in Japan in the year 1904. He was never permitted to return to his beloved and loyal people.

Save for one great drawback, we might name the Ryū Kyūs, "*Avillion*," or the *Isles of the Blest*, but alas! literally, "*The trail of the serpent is over them all*"—the "trail of the serpent," or rather the deadly, poisonous snake—called *habu*, which attains the length of 6 to 7 feet, and a diameter of from $2\frac{1}{2}$ to 3 inches.

Its bite is almost always fatal. A laboratory has been set up at Naza, in Oshima, under the able supervision of Dr. Yamamoto, and precautions are being taken to exterminate these pests. The Imperial Japanese Government are turning much attention to the matter. Snakes, venomous or even harmless, strike terror among the ignorant classes. Even this district in which this monograph is written is not entirely free from foes of this kind. A snake catcher, Brusher Mills by name, spent all his life in endeavouring to keep down the poisonous adder, frequently met with in the New Forest, England. There is a prevailing idea that this brave forester made a good living out of his occupation, because it is known that in the internal parts of the snake there is curative fat to be found. This secretion is supposed to be an antidote for the sting or venom, and tradition has handed down the story that this fearless and kindly old man received something like a guinea an ounce for his moxa, or ointment. He is now dead. He is buried in the Parish Churchyard of Brockenhurst, where stands an ancient yew-tree, mentioned in Domesday Book. A carved monumental stone, depicting this local celebrity, with many of his victims grasped in his naked hands, is reared to his memory by grateful inhabitants.* The fauna of the

* The curative fat was obtained from the internal portion of the adder ; but, as each specimen only contained a very small quantity, a great many adders were required to produce any useful sufficiency. It was rubbed on the spot after the victim had been attacked. It was necessary to cut the wound first with a penknife, in order to make the spot bleed, and then to rub in the fat.

When the adders were caught, care had to be taken that they did not bite themselves in that part where the secretion lay. For this reason, Brusher Mills always carried a stick with a forked end. He

Loo Choos includes wild boars, deer, rats, and bats. There are ponies and cattle and goats, besides the domestic pig already mentioned. This list is meagre, but good use is made of all available beasts of burden, for, as is usual, women take the greater share of labour, and the transit of goods is always difficult to organize, particularly until a country is advanced enough to make good roads from one centre of industry to another.

From an ornithological point of view, owing to the immense number of birds that find the Ryū Kyūs the first station across the Eastern Pacific, the migration is on a very great scale. One island is more particularly favoured than the rest, and, after the breeding season is over, feathers of all colours and hues are collected, and exported for many purposes to foreign countries. The trade in feathers is enormous. Flocks of birds literally darken the sky as they seek refuge or rest for awhile.* They are permitted a certain amount of time to enjoy the soft warm air, ere cruel slaughter is organized for the sake of pampering fashion in supplying the cravings of passing fancies.

used this to pin them on the ground by the neck just beneath the head, so that they could not turn on their own bodies. He then struck off their heads, and thus prevented them destroying the antidote of their bites.

The fat was prepared by gently boiling and straining off through a burnt cloth, and when it became clear, like jelly, it was preserved in bottles.

This preparation was usually undertaken during the month of March, and when properly formulated was considered a certain cure for adders' bites, also wounds, rheumatism, and other ailments.

This information has been given by a relation of our snake-catcher, also by one of the foresters of this district, whose ancestors have worked in the New Forest for several centuries.

* *The Loo Choo Islands*, by Charles Leavenworth. East of Asia, Shanghai.

Varieties of trees are not very plentiful, but we may mention that the camphor-tree is found in the northern districts, and that the camphor trade in the Loo Choos as elsewhere is a Government monopoly of Japan. Rubber-trees are also grown, and it is said that greater attention will be paid to this particular industry in the near future. The sago-palm is much prized, and so plentiful is the banana, so abundant in its fruit, that there is no lack of this satisfying food and delicious aromatic pod, which will prove, when commerce becomes more active, a great boon to foreign countries who are not able to produce the fruit. In England the banana has become very popular, when the best kinds can be secured for consumption. It is a particular favourite with quite young children, and has been recommended by the faculty as one of the safest and most nourishing fruits for all, both young and old.

We are not surprised to find that the inhabitants of the Loo Choos had recourse to that barbaric form of disfiguring the flesh by means of tattoo, for it was suffered for many reasons, particularly as a means of identification of tribes or communities. Strange to say, it was more often inflicted upon women than on men, and we find it was practised by most islanders in the Pacific seas. Patterns varied considerably, and the artistic work that is displayed by the Japanese in this particular art of skin puncture has not extended so far east. Marks or consecutive patterns on the hands or feet were considered sufficient to be endured. But this custom is dying out; it is interdicted by the Japanese Government.

The religious spirit of the inhabitants needs to be aroused. There are a few Buddhist temples scattered

here and there, but the services of priests are only solicited at funeral ceremonies. Shintoism exists; it is made evident in the reverence which is shown for the dead, otherwise religion is almost unknown and unsought. The hearts of the people will be found virgin soil for sowing the seed of Truth and belief in the Divine origin of all things.

But for the last ten years the education of the people has been greatly considered, and an expansive movement is on foot for the cultivation of the mind. Schools have already been organized in various parts of the islands, especially in Shuri and Naha, and other more populated centres—primary schools, normal schools, schools for the industrial population, where forestry, agriculture, medicine, industries, and other important subjects can be learnt. The principal islands of Oshima and Okina-wa Ken are well looked after. Five lighthouses have been erected between the various islands. Means of communication by telegraph or cable have been instituted; various routes for the different lines of steamers have been established, by which news and important messages can be conveyed, especially between Kiushiu, Kagoshima, Formosa, Keelung, and all the nearest points of vantage.

Under the blessing of good administration, this lovely group of islands, which form on the eastern side of Japan a rainbow arch round the Land of the Risen Sun, will fling a radiation of peace and beauty as its dower to the Empire that has claimed it for her own.

It must be a pleasant task to work out great schemes among a people of such a gentle and placid disposition, who have dwelt for many centuries in some of the fairest isles of the Pacific. They are a great contrast to most

peoples whose lot has been cast in lands surrounded by seas. Savagery seems almost unknown among them. There is but little crime to punish, and policemen are scarcely needed to keep the peace or bring miscreants up to justice. Wealth is distributed with wonderful impartiality, for we have it on good authority that there are neither very rich nor very poor among the inhabitants. There is a tendency to ignore a progressive policy, and a decided lethargy is shown towards any changes.

Tombs and graveyards exist, and show a slight modification of design where a matter of class distinction is needed.

Like all past generations who have have been left to themselves, the reverence for the dead is more marked even than for the living. Cemeteries receive more consideration than the former residences of Kings, however beloved and honoured.

For this reason it remains to be seen to how great an extent the Japanese will emulate the sentiments of the West in preserving the relics, wrought with so much care by generations of ancestors, who, though they have passed hence, are ever believed to be present upon earth.

Cemeteries can be seen from the shore, dotted in pure white raised slabs, which gleam in the moonlight, and reflect their own written records in the clear, still waters above the coral reefs, in silent and impressive simplicity.

From accounts given by Captain Basil Hall in his book *A Voyage to Korea and the Loo Choo Islands* during 1818-20, we learn many most interesting facts concerning the inhabitants of the islands. Altogether they bear out the testimony of the travellers to-day. The Loochooans are a decidedly charming people, both

in manners and customs and ethical condition. Their dress is singularly graceful. Both men and women in former days wore a loose flowing garment with long sleeves, drawn in at the waist with a richly embroidered waistband. The costume was not confined to any special colour, but the band was made to harmonize, and not to match the rest of the clothing. Sandals were fixed, *à la Japonaise*, to the feet by the aid of a digit string that was slipped through the great toe ; for this security a division in the shoe or stocking was provided. All the Loo-chooans carried fans, which they stuck in their girdles when not in use. Each man had a short pipe and a small tobacco pouch hanging at the waist. This description agrees with the costumes and the accessories of dress as donned by the Japanese, prior to the year of the Restoration.

Everyone, says this voyager, had a picturesque attire, from the lowest to the highest. Their language was musical and easy of pronunciation. Their songs were sweet and plaintive. In stature they were small ; their hair black and glossy and always neat, their skin was deep copper, sometimes very dark. Most of the inhabitants were decidedly good-looking, and some had very sweet expressions and placid countenances, heightened by very beautiful white teeth. They were modest, polite, timid, respectful—in short, a most amiable and interesting people.

The produce of the island; from which the daily menu consisted, offered a somewhat ample list. Hog bacon, kids, potatoes, eggs, vermicelli (saki), rice spirit, tea, fish of many kinds—this they fried in butter—smoked pork, black sugar cakes like gingerbread nuts, vege-

tables, and fruits. Curlews and sea-snipes were also set before the foreigners, well served.

The sugar-cane was cultivated, also tobacco, wheat, rice, Indian corn, millet, potatoes, bamboo, and rattan. Pine-trees attained a prodigious size. Banyan - trees and other lovely forms of forestry, including camphor, flourished. The planks utilized for boats were several feet wide. The cattle were small: they were only required as beasts of burden. Milk was never used as food. The horses were small and slender. The roads over the islands were kept in excellent order. Pigeons and poultry were plentiful. The Loochooans, whose isolation warned them to be very discreet, were most suspicious of the captain and crew of the *Alceste* and the *Lyra*. The chief offence, however, was of a really slight nature. Unwillingly some of the parties shot the pet home-birds of the Loochooans, and ran the chance of being ordered to move on in consequence. But before the island was left, good-will and fellowship had sprung up between the inhabitants and the foreigners, and the farewell was an event of much regret and real sorrow, the islanders being moved to tears.

According to accounts given in the manuscript history, as well as by travellers, the Loochooans were highly skilled both in architecture and in masonry. Of the three castles, the Buddhist temples, and Shinto shrines, the crowning triumph was centred in the Castle of Shuri, the residence of former Kings. This castle dates from almost traditional times, for the history of the Loo Choos is fuller of events than that of the other dependencies, and can be traced back to mythical legends.

Shuri Castle is not only a fine piece of work, but it

proves by reason of the labour that was spent in its construction, that the people were loyal to the descendants of the great warrior, Tametomo. The reigning King, or "Great Man," was jealously guarded and made almost a State prisoner. He was, however, content to remain in obscurity, being well aware that it was only on account of the fidelity of his subjects that he was confined within the precincts of his palace. The account given by Captain Basil Hall, in 1816, bears out this testimony, since his repeated request to be permitted to hold an audience or to be brought into the notice of the "Great Man" was postponed on every occasion and politely withheld until almost demanded. This refusal on the part of the inhabitants was only out of fear for their Sovereign's safety. Visitors were rare in those days, for they always aroused suspicion. The Castle of Shuri stands 500 feet above the sea. A wall from 60 to 80 feet high and 15 feet wide runs round and encloses the whole structure, including a fine garden. This wall is exceedingly graceful, being designed in a series of curved and elliptical arches that cross and recross each other. These arches are beautifully carved within each soffit as well as on the face of the walls. Both castle and enclosure are of rough-hewn coral and stones of unequal sizes, cemented together with masonic ingenuity, a puzzle of completeness, pleasing in its perfect and massive conception. The gateway, or entrance, shows a decided combination of Chinese and other Oriental influences. Although the Loochooans carried out original ideas, there is no doubt they were influenced by the civilization of China, like the rest of those people who were brought in contact with China's art and traditions.

The wealth of Nature in these moist, warm isles defies description! Nature weaves her floral carpets and embroideries in designs that cannot be imitated—they are unique and exclusively her own. Trailing plant and stately cactus, sago-palm, and luxuriant vegetation grow in sweet confusion. Mosses and lichens nestle within the interstices of the rough-hewn stones. These ground-plants are of the richest dyes, and when touched by the glow of tropical sunset resemble jewels studding the coral walls and ramparts, gateways, and protecting bulwarks.

The town of Nafa is built on the level plains, while Shuri, the former capital, by reason of its elevated position, commands lovely views. All the houses are, nevertheless, surrounded with high stone walls, put together in the same manner as the castle enclosure. The roads are also paved with stones or roughly cut squares of coral and coral rock. Their unlevelled surface is a decided drawback; it offers but little comfort to the pedestrian, however much it may lend itself to the picturesque. The highroad from Nafa to Shuri is also protected by a wall 10 feet high, but luckily sufficiently wide to admit of air and space. This road is lined with trees on either side, so that parts at least of the Loo Choos give an aspect of security, if not absolute exclusiveness, amounting to a fortified intention. In this way we may pronounce Ogasawara as having a unique appearance—one that proclaims both the ingenuity and industry of these gentle people.

Within the quiet central group of Okina-wa agriculture is carried on. Men and women find much to occupy their time. Here they weave materials for

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clothing, or make light articles for daily use, or manufacture fans and toys. Here they also shape implements for domestic purposes, and attend to their animals and farming operations.

Occasionally Japanese from the mainland, or Vries Island, visit this new colony, for steamer routes have been established and a trip to the Loo Choos is no longer a dream impossible of realization, neither is it attended with so many risks as in former years. Then only a few strangers would attempt to land amid the low rocks or dangerous coral reefs. One navigator felt it an imperative duty to warn another of the impregnable barriers. But those who were not to be daunted or turned from their enterprise were well repaid in the end. After it was fully understood that the foreigner was only on a friendly mission, these kindly and generous natives exhibited signs of keen appreciation. The bountiful impulses, characteristic among Orientals, soon outweighed suspicion. The exchange of novel and interesting presents soon wrought a new phase in the event, since in the eagerness to have every gift explained and demonstrated, the natives threw off their reserve and suspicion.

But by nature the Loochooans are a simple and quiet people, loving isolation, and apparently quite content with their lot. They are 200 miles from Kagoshima, and farther still from any other inhabited lands. At one time they were terribly afraid of the wild men of Formosa, and when threatened with an invasion of the untamed Botan tribes, the Loochooans had recourse to a clever ruse. Out of fine straw they plaited shoes of an enormous size and sent them floating on the sea, in the hope that on reaching the coast of Formosa it

might be inferred that there were many giants among their community.

The steamer routes organized are as follows, and the length of distances from one island to another will give a good idea of their distribution: "Kagoshima to Oshima, 203 miles; Oshima to Okina-wa, 170 miles; Okina-wa to Miyako, 150 miles; Miyako to Ishi-gaki, 89 miles; Ishi-gaki to Irimoto, 38 miles; Irimoto to Yonakuni, 40 miles; Yonakuni to Keelung Formosa, 80 miles."*

An English traveller who has lately visited all three groups of these islands has courteously allowed me to close this monograph with a few notes from his journal. He mentions two other useful trees—the *Kuro ki*, or black wood, and the *Hitots-bar*. Both these fine woods are used in the construction of the better class houses, while for the lacquer trade the wood of the *Gajui-mara* is selected.

The islands are enhanced by their lovely setting in seas that are sometimes emerald green, and at others deep purple, clear to the very depths. Coral formation may be seen piling up to the very surface. This substance glistens white and shining along the coasts like lines of pristine silver. Shells abound, rare and exquisite in form and colour. Butterflies and moths flit hither and thither; among them may be seen the *Attacus atlas*, that measures 8 inches from wing to wing.

In the grand old castle of Shuri, charmingly described by Captain Brunton,† there is now an Industrial School, where Loochooan girls are taught the art of hand-weaving. But Nature in her silent devotion sentinels the abode of former rulers, and a fine grove of *Red Akaki* trees encircle the moss-grown ancient walls of the castle.

This may read as a fairy story; nevertheless, it is the statement of the few who have been privileged to participate in the restfulness or peace of these Happy Isles.

* From *The Loo Choo Islands*, by Charles Leavenworth. Shanghai.

† See Transactions of the Asiatic Society of Japan, vol. iv.

III

THE BONIN, OR BU-NIN ISLANDS (OGASAWARA-SHIMA)

THE history of Ogasawara-shima dates from A.D. 1593. In some respects many events connected with the finding of this group are identical with those of other ocean islands that lie some distance from the mainland of empires. Adventurers and navigators were bound to undertake the task of discovering habitable land nearest to the coast-line of the mother countries, in view of ultimate possession, if not already appropriated by other nations. Although the discovery of the Bonins was, by some authorities, attributed to the Daimio, into whose fief they were first included, and from whom they ultimately derived their Japanese name, there is no doubt whatever that men of various nationalities visited the larger tracts of land, sojourned there for a while, and then afterwards relinquished all interest in them for want of congenial companionship.

The Bonins number twenty-seven in all, taking into account both large and small islands. They consist of three groups that lie close together. Some are situated in the same latitude as the Loo Choos; others as that of Hawaii. On the western side they are from 500 to 700 miles south-south-east from Yokohama. They stretch due north and south, slightly inclining towards the west. They have a coast-line of 174.65 square

miles, and an area of 28.82 square miles. Lat. $26^{\circ} 30'$ to $27^{\circ} 45'$ N. ; and long. between $142^{\circ} 11'$ and 149° E.

The word *Bo-nin* is a corruption of *Bu-nin*, the Japanese for “no men”; or Munin-tō or *Munin-jinia*, “empty of men.” This descriptive synonym was given because, when first discovered, they were desolate and devoid of humanity.

In Professor von Siebold's translation of Commander M. G. Vries' Navigations in the Eastern and Northern Pacific, there is a note on page 4 that throws some light on the position, and also gives details of the sighting of this particular group. It appears to have been the good fortune of Quast and Tasmann to have visited the Bonins. They could not, however, lay claim to the discovery, because this annexation had already been made by the Japanese in the commencement of the seventeenth century.

It is stated in the book above mentioned that this chain of islands stretching $26^{\circ} 38'$ to $27^{\circ} 45'$ North latitude and $142^{\circ} 11'$ to $150^{\circ} 14'$ East longitude from Greenwich had been visited, or *found* by men of other nationalities over and over again. But owing to their desolate and destitute condition, they were soon vacated. This in some measure accounts for the numerous names the islands have received. For this reason they cannot always be identified on more ancient maps than those which we consult in our own days. Among these names we find *Ilas del Arzobispo* (Archbishop's Island) 1734 ; *Margaret's Island*, 1773; and *Guadalupe*, marked at widely differing longitudes. Later still they were known by the names of other explorers, whose adventures will be mentioned farther on in this monograph.

Europeans divided the islands into groups. The northern was known as Parry's Island, the Central group as Beechy's Island, and the Southern as Coffin Islands in 1827. It was during this year they were taken possession of for Britain by Captain Beechy, who, before he left, raised an inscription, which he wrote and preserved in a copper sheathing, and then affixed the legend to a tree at Port Lloyd. The inscription bore these words: "H.M.S. *Blóssom*. Captain Beechy took possession of these islands in the name, and on the behalf of H.M. King George IV. on the 14th of June, 1827."*

Commodore Perry, whose name has become so prominent in matters relating to Japan, visited the Bu-nin in 1853. He was favourably impressed with their possibilities. Practical and far-seeing, he looked well to the future, and strongly urged the Americans to take the matter in hand, and establish a coaling-station for ships crossing between the eastern and western coast; but as far as we know, this injunction was not carried out.

When, in the sixteenth century, the Bu-nins were discovered, they were soon evacuated. In 1635 they were again under consideration, but were only paid a cursory visit and left to lie *perdu* for a term of years.

In 1758 communication was occasionally kept up; and the Japanese, who visited them again, met with but little success. The next attempt was made by a small party of men of various nationalities, including a few Japanese of both sexes, two Americans, one Dane, some natives of Hawaii, and one or two British. The party sailed to Port Lloyd and succeeded in hoisting the

* *Japan*, by J. J. Rein, p. 533. Hodder and Stoughton, 1888.

British Flag, round which the community rallied. This was in 1830, and the enterprise in some measure succeeded, so much so that, when in 1875 Commodore Perry again visited Peel Island, he found thirty inhabitants. Added to those already mentioned, some Portuguese settlers were among the number. Another report * given by Russell Robinson, who had been appointed Consul in Yokohama, affirms that the number of people inhabiting the islands collectively consisted of sixty-nine persons of various nationalities, of whom only five were pure whites. This included a few Japanese women.

The claims of the British had been established by the fact that English names were already given to certain stations and places, and that the English language was spoken. The ignorant had relied on the stronger natures, and those who had staked their lives and their all in the venture were intuitively drawn towards those most capable to govern and administrate.

But as early as 1861 the Japanese laid definite claim to this group. From the information available we gather that the British Government were willing to withdraw, and courteously renounced their right of possession. The occupation had not been of a serious official nature. It is true the work of colonization had been started by the British, and that our countrymen had emulated the adventurers to persevere; nevertheless, Japan's paramount interest was fully recognized, and the handing over of the Bonins to the Japanese was carried through in a bloodless surrender, and in a manner that

* *The Bonin Islands*, by Russell Robinson (Transactions of the Asiatic Society of Japan, vol. iv.). *Robertson*

proves that occasionally at least the pen is mightier than the sword.

Although those who were living on the islands were of a mixed nationality, there does not appear to have been any resistance offered to mar the harmony when the annexation took place.

All things considered, it is somewhat consoling to find that without any enforced system, laws, education, religious influence, or any prescribed rules, such a varied community of men and women should have lived peacefully together, husbanding the land, ministering to one another's requirements, and respecting those codes of honour that made life possible under such conditions. That they had to work hard for their daily sustenance and necessities is certain, otherwise death would have overtaken them. This is conclusive, for if we examine the chart brought up to date, it will be seen how isolated is the position of the Bonins. Owing to the imperfect knowledge of navigation and the scarcity of ships traveling across such enormous tracts of water, particularly on the eastern side, it will be readily understood that those who elected to make their home in these isolated islands must indeed have been, in those early days, a manly and brave band. From this stock the present inhabitants have increased, truly a heterogeneous community. The ethnologist will find in the Bonins a wide and interesting field for investigation, deserving of much careful study. From the first five souls of three nationalities—two Americans, one Dane, and two British—who claim to have been the primary inhabitants, the colony has expanded. Into its midst have entered Spanish, Hawaiians, and other colonists from the Sand-

wich Islands, which are situated miles distant, though on the same latitude; and now many Japanese have migrated from Dai Nippon, together with 100 naturalized European subjects, many of whom declare Ogasawara an ideal place wherein to spend a lifetime. Work has grown apace since the Bonins were handed over into the keeping of the Japanese, and we are happy to find that no less than 4,500 persons enjoy the many blessings and attractions of this small and fair archipelago. For sickness is almost unknown; labour of various kinds, chiefly agriculture, is conducive to health, and the food that is obtainable on land and sea suits the inhabitants. It is chiefly goat's-flesh, fish, and vegetables. There are but few drawbacks to contend with, except seismic earthquakes, occasional fogs, and dreaded typhoons, which visit at almost stated intervals all ocean islands situated near the Equator. From these the Bonins do not go free.* The rise and fall in the water-line shows that under-sea disturbances are liable to affect the areas of the several groups, for occasionally an island will arise and remain for a few months, or even years, and as suddenly disappear from sight altogether. These phenomena have to be watched, and migration to new surface-ground must be only undertaken with extreme caution. The chief pest of the islands is the *Blatta orientalis*, which is common almost everywhere in Asia. The islands lie close together, and thus have become a friendly colony, so much so that since the Japanese occupation they have all been renamed. The following list will bear out the above remark:

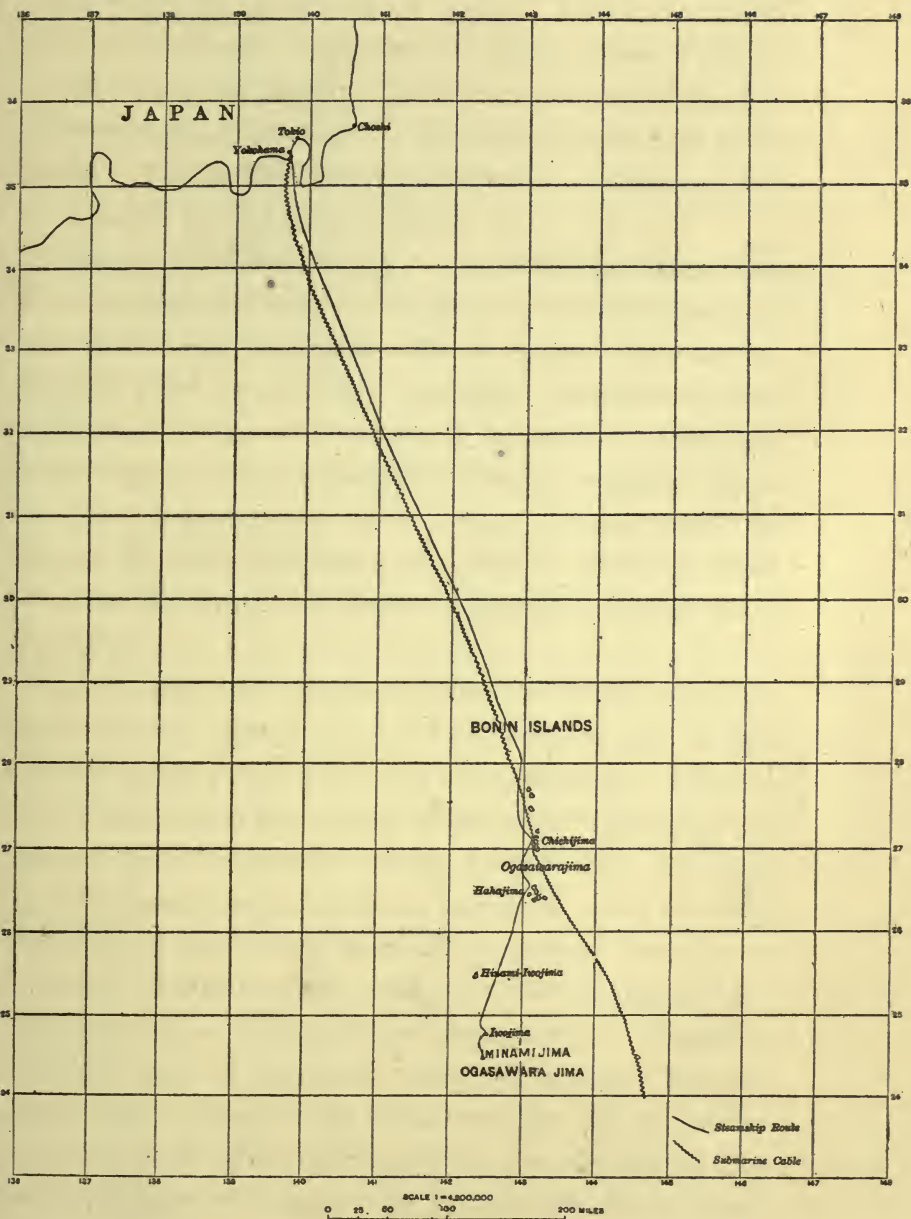
* The storm that passed over Japan, Formosa, and other parts of the Pacific on September 23, 1912, originated in the Bonins.

Commencing from the north: *Muko shima* (Bridegroom Island), *Yone shima* (Bride Island), *Nako-do shima* (Go-between Island), *Ani shima* (Elder Brother Island), *Ototo jima* (Younger Brother Island), *Mei jima* (Niece Island), *Chi chi jima* (Father Island), *Haha jima* (Mother Island), *Ani jima* (Elder Sister Island), *Imoto jima* (Younger Sister Island).

Formerly, when under British control, *Chi chi jima* (Father Island) was called Peel Island, *Ototo jima* was named Stapleton's Island, and *Ani jima* was known as Buckland's Island. A large bay south of Peel Island was called Fritton's Bay by Beechy, and one on Buckland's Island was named Walker Bay; Port Lloyd was at Peel Island.

Nature has not forgotten to lavish her favours upon this fair group. The mild atmosphere is most conducive to vegetation. Fruit and flowers abound in profusion. The pineapple and the orange are abundant. The valleys yield several cereals, including beans, taro, maize, sugar-cane, and other crops. Celery, wild sage, and the curry-plant are indigenous to the land; also tobacco, and many very useful vegetables. Forests of rosewood, red and white box, sandalwood, and white oak, clothe the hillsides and rear their stately and dense forms against the sky or water line. The wild cactus prefers the sterile dunes, and flourishes under the almost tropical influence of the sun. Low rocks girdle the approach to some of the islands, and make navigation difficult at certain times and seasons. These rocks are covered with beautiful coral formations, and the clear depths are tessellated with lovely natural products. There are no minerals except coal.

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1861.

(Chi-chi-jima) is said to be the result of a disturbance, but the date of this event has not been kept. It appears, however, that during an earthquake a fissure was formed owing to a cleavage in the rock ; the flow of lava, keeping the fissure apart, eventually resulted in a natural harbour being created. Now that the population has so rapidly increased, when work becomes more organized and other harbours constructed, considerable convenience can be afforded to whale-fishers, who are glad enough to seek shelter at the only available Port Lloyd. They are often hard pressed for water and provisions, because, like every other trade and occupation, this particular piscatorial business is on the increase. Whale-oil is much in demand, though the dangers accompanying the capture of this cetacean prize are often very great.

It is in the Pacific, though farther north, that the immense shoals of whales congregate, also where the "schools" of fur and hair seals, sea-otters, and sea-lions, migrate during the summer solstice. The climate of Japan is moist and warm during the middle months of the year. The prevailing winds being borne from the south during these months, they consequently beat against the eastern coast, and give to Japan that mildness of atmosphere which is conducive to her vegetation, and particularly affects her floral wealth, blossoming trees, and rich autumnal tints, at the fall of the year. Also the Kuroshiwo, or warm Black Stream of the Pacific, traverses the ocean, visiting Formosa, the Loo Choo and the Bonin Islands, on its upward journey to the Aleuthian and Privolof Islands. A recent change has occurred in the vicinity of the Behring Straits and the Kuriles, which, it is said, will ultimately alter the

temperature of the far northern regions. Land is showing a greater area, and the straits have a tendency to fill up, in which case the Kuroshiwo may influence for better the intense severity of the north.

The Bonin Islands have been visited by missionaries, who are eager to work for good among this heterogeneous community. Like all other of Japan's recent acquisitions, the islands will have the benefit of all modern theories for improvement, and the change from darkness and neglect will be undertaken in the true spirit of civilization. May they prove in time, as other dependencies bid fair to do, bright blossoms of the sea, and thus girdle the Motherland with beauty and riches !

From whatever commingling of races the inhabitants of these far-distant isles have sprung, they are gentle, contented, and happy. Though uneducated in the ordinary way of life, untutored in religion, they seem perfectly unaware of the dangers that lie around their sea-girt home. Occasionally some English voyager will touch upon the island, and bring a message of Peace or Love, and thus light, as it were, a beacon of Hope to guide others who are toiling in these remote regions. At one time or another the shipwrecked mariner seeks refuge, and is, by reason of the peace and restful scenes before him, more than satisfied to remain and settle in such a land of promise.

There is to be found on the Bonin Islands a very valuable reptile. That is a beautiful species of sea-tortoise. Its habits are very extraordinary. The sport of securing specimens is exciting in the extreme. Like all valuable forms of animal life, the male, or bull, is

more plentiful than the female. But the latter can be scented from afar by that peculiar instinct that has been given to lower orders of creation. A decoy living turtle is affixed to a rock, and is given plenty of rope length. Floating upon the water, she is soon discovered and courted by the male. When the love overtures are accepted and approved of, the pair can be easily secured. This is successfully accomplished by approaching them from behind; they are then seized by the aid of a turtle hook, which is slipped into the noose that secured the female to the rock. There is a lively trade in turtles, for the meat is a delicacy, and, though plentiful around Peel Island in former times, the supply has diminished. Hauling the prizes into the boats, if the harvest is too plentiful for the accommodation, is a laborious undertaking on account of size as well as weight. The flippers of the turtles (that cannot be taken up at once) are tied together. The spoil is left within sight of the turtlers, to float upon the water till other canoes can be chartered. In the civilized world, where luxuries must be forthcoming, the price of a plate of real turtle soup is kept up, regardless of the immense shoals that can be captured and removed for the venture, from lonely, peacefully ignorant islanders to more brisk centres of trade. The early spring is the best month for entering into the business of collecting these delicacies.

The natives of these isles are adepts in the arts of fishing, shooting, and turtling, when other sports are not engaging their attention. Turtles reach an immense size, chiefly on account of their long age. So heavy do they become that it sometimes requires the services of three or four fishermen to turn them upon their backs,

which is another way of securing the species. Their shell is sought for on account of its great value as a substance upon which the art workers of the East can lavish much care. They turn this beautiful and lasting natural commodity to many uses, such as combs, hairpins, tobacco pouches, counters for ceremonial games, fans, and many other accessories much in request by the Oriental.

Of course, like every other valuable find, energy leads to ultimate extermination, if over-exercised. But everything has its compensations. It is principally by specialities of flora and fauna that certain lonely islands leap into prominence. Any diversion that will direct the attention of scientists and experts to the Bonins should prove a boon to the community.

In June, 1853, Commodore Perry visited the Loo Choos and the Bonins. At that time Port Lloyd only boasted of one white man, Nathaniel Savory by name. Most of the settlers had congregated at Peel Island, among whom were four Englishmen, four Americans, one Portuguese. The rest were from the Landrones, the Carolines, and the Kingsmill Islands. A few children had been born on the Bonins. The list here mentioned constituted the population.

Some writers aver that the community was not altogether peaceable, and that there had been cases of violence, and even murder, perpetrated.

During Commodore Perry's visit, he strongly advised the people to submit to some restraining form of government or administrative law, which should be drawn up, signed, and ratified, for their mutual benefit, irrespective of nationality. It was urged that this deed should be respected among themselves, both for their individual

and collective advantages, particularly for the security of life and property.

In course of time this suggestion was carried into effect, and was known as *The Organization of the Settlers of Peel Island*. As late as 1875 some of those who participated in the preparation of the Deed were still living, proud to have been concerned in its establishment.

Among the navigators who visited this island was a Captain Charlton, who was for some time Consul of the Sandwich Islands. Having heard of Captain Beechy's success, Charlton mustered a crew as enthusiastic as himself, all eager to visit the group. Captain Charlton and his men came amply provided for the venture. They brought seeds and agricultural implements, plants and live-stock, together with other useful presents, and during their stay hoisted the British flag.

Some of the crew returned again and settled there altogether. Among the number was a man named Webb, who married, built himself a substantial house, and cultivated land. This sailor was beloved and respected for his piety and learning. He brought a Bible, which he read diligently, and instructed others who were willing to learn. It is said that Webb on several occasions acted in the capacity of clergyman, marrying couples, or reading the Burial Service when necessity arose. In Captain Snow's account of his visit to the islands during a turtling expedition, he mentions that one of the Webbs accompanied him during the sport, which shows that the family were represented among those who are still living in these dependencies.* Two other English sailors, Robert Myres and George Horton,

* *In Forbidden Seas*, by Captain J. H. Snow.

are mentioned by narrators.* George Horton, it appears, was falsely accused of some misdemeanour. He was removed to Yokohama, where he died eventually of a broken heart, being well advanced in years. He had grown much attached to his island home, having led a very adventurous life. Besides, he had been looked on as a hero by his fellow-companions, having served under Lord Nelson for twenty-five years. Horton had seen active service in many foreign parts and was well informed on several subjects.

Of the many useful importations that visitors contributed, the goats have taken the most kindly to their new quarters. They have increased to such an extent that they have become almost too numerous. But as other animals were either utilized for food or allowed to die out, the goat must be reared on account of its many uses. The population being so much on the increase, there will be fresh demands, particularly since Englishmen are uniting with the Japanese and other emigrants to people these colonies. We have not heard of cows and oxen having again been taken over or acclimatized.

Like all the new dependencies, a Governor-General has been appointed, schools are being organized, and a regular method of communication is being established between the Bonins and Japan.

* A fuller account of these men, together with the fact that the copper plate set up by Captain Beechy was seen in a garden belonging to a Frenchman, where it had evidently been thrown away when the Japanese took possession of the islands, will be found in the Transactions of the Asiatic Society of Japan, vol. iv.

IV

THE KURIL ISLANDS, CALLED BY THE JAPANESE CHISHIMA

THE history of Yeso, Krafu, and the Kuril Islands, is more or less contemporary. Accounts given by Dutch navigators prove that the Eastern or "Hairy Savage" overran those three distinct but adjacent possessions that are now in the hands of the Japanese.

After the raids and petty wars organized by the Ainu upon Japan in the early centuries, the savages were forced back to their northern homes by the ancestors of those now constituting the Japanese nation, and the invaders were forced to abandon their intentions, for the tide of combat turned, and a somewhat speedy retreat was necessary. It was then that the Ainu spread hither and thither, slowly populating one island after another. But these aborigines were few in number, and for this reason crippled in the little spirit of enterprise that was left after many failures.

It was early in the seventeenth century that these extreme northern islands came into prominence from a geographical and historical point of view. Previous to A.D. 1615, although islands were known to exist, neither accurate information nor reliable maps were available to guide the mariners safely through their dangerous undertakings. In Professor P. F. von Siebold's book dealing with *The Voyage of Commander*

Maerten Gerrits Vries of the Flute Castricum in A.D. 1643, many interesting details of the finding of Yeso will be seen. Commander Vries navigated the northern latitudes east of Japan, and is credited with having discovered Yeso and the Kuriles in the summer of the year above mentioned. For this reason his name will ever take the lead. His success in navigating those regions which now constitute *The Northern Circuit of Japan* has been recorded in the most excellent narrative, prepared with much care, from the long-missing journal of the famous Dutch navigator. Professor P. F. von Siebold's work was translated from the original Dutch language (in which it was first written) by F. M. Cowan, interpreter to the British Consulate-General in Japan, and was published in Amsterdam in the year 1859.

Upon the chart in this work many valuable remarks are given. Altogether the information contained in this publication is highly valuable to all who are now seeking knowledge concerning this out-of-the-way extremity of Japan's possessions. With the name of Commander Vries will ever be associated those of Broughton, Lapérouse, Laxmann, Captain Golownin, and others, whose labours have been immortalized by bay, cape, river, and island, bearing their names as lasting witnesses of their adventures and discoveries.

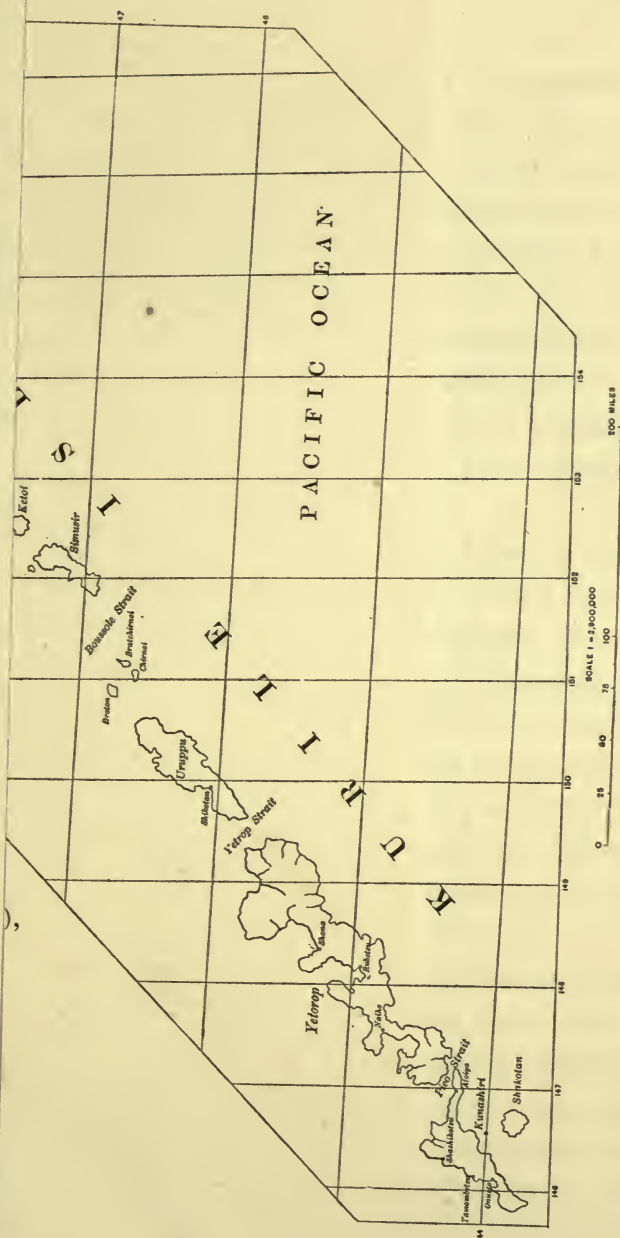
Their love of enterprise must indeed have been amply satisfied, for each island and tract of land, each creek and bay sighted, presented varied aspects of beauty or solemnity. Moreover, the aborigines, though somewhat fearsome in appearance, proved a peaceful and gentle community, not in the least given to com-

bativeness, nor cannibal in their requirements; but, on the contrary, erring on the side of inaction, ready to yield to strangers, and fully confident in appreciating friendly intercourse. If the inhabitants of these island homes were few, the seaboard presented a lively spectacle. Mammals were plentiful, fish abundant, and birds of many species restless and numerous. The first visit undertaken by the Dutch navigator was made in June, A.D. 1615, luckily the best and warmest month of the year.

Other records state that parts of Yeso had been known earlier, but the waters were difficult to traverse in the frail boats that were then employed, and the only point was the Bay of Laxmann, which at one time constituted the sole sea-road known for communication between Yeso and the Kuriles. This route was the one taken as a means of commercial intercourse by those who for the time being were isolated from the adjacent lands, and without other friendly assistance.

The group under consideration is known to Europeans and Americans as the Kuriles, to the Asiatics as CHISHIMA. It consists of about sixteen chief islands, of various areas, which number in all thirty-two tracts of land, large and small. Among the greater islands many volcanic mountains are distributed. This feature has earned for the Kuriles the name of *The Smokers*. This synonym is of Chinese origin. Hundreds of volcanoes are distributed throughout Japan; some are still active, some quiescent, lying couchant, ready to spring into violent restlessness, and to erupt at any moment. Others lie hidden and "dead"; their work seems

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ended, their internal fires burnt out, their birth unchronicled by man during the dim crepuscular beginnings of creation, their upheavals and extinctions like unto those mighty mountains science has revealed to us in far-distant planetary systems. Over many of Japan's now silent mountains Nature has been at work. She has revered their past glory, and lovingly healed their gaping scars with floral tributes; for wreaths of flowers, moss, and lichen, have been content to feed and thrive on the meagre nourishment of ash-strewn tracts and crumbling lava deposits, their presence seeming to steady the fierce passions that in the past shook the incandescent hearts of Giant Triumphs.

It is said that nearly two-thirds of Japan is mountainous; therefore we are not surprised to find volcanic upheavals in her outlying fringe of islands, many of which are the consequences of seismic and underground, or rather undersea, disturbances. For, alas! even quiescence is not always reliable; solfatara breaches break out at intervals in still mountain-sides, sending forth deleterious steam and sulphurous odours far and near. Many islands rise for a time and again disappear from sight in the extreme limit of the East Pacific.

In the Kuriles there are several active burning mountains. The Kunashiri cone rises 7,000 feet. This is tapped by several uncertain and unsteady solfataras. Rusunobori is another volcano on the south-east coast; this rises 3,005 feet. Then there are Chacha-nobori and Ruruidate; this last contains a peak within a peak. In Etorofu is Otsuka-nobori,* which is nearly 4,000

* *Nobori*, *take* or *dake*, *yama* and *san*, stand for mountain or peak. Thus, Fuji *san*, peerless mountain; Ruruidate, a protected mountain,

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feet. In the island of Shana another active burning mountain stands 5,009 feet. This is named Chiriponopari. There are others of less magnitude, respectively called Mokoro-nobori, 3,930 feet, and Atuiyadake, 3,932 feet.

Hot springs abound of various temperatures, even as high as 111° F.; hollows of rocks and low ledges make excellent bathing accommodation. Kunashir is rich in boiling springs, also Ushishir and Yetorup and other islands large and small.

For this reason we may imagine that earthquake shocks are very frequent—too much so to strike terror in the hearts of the inhabitants, or even the wild families of birds and mammals, that love their storm-ridden homes, in which at least they feel pretty safe from the gun of the hunter, if not from the wild convulsions of Nature. Here the solitude is relieved and the landscapes are graced with the flight of birds in incessant motion.

According to the latest accounts, the Chinese, the Russians, and the Japanese, have at one time or another laid claim to this group, accounting it part of their several territories, holding the aborigines and settlers to obedience, and forcing stringent laws upon them when necessity arose. The supervision was at times arbitrary in the extreme.

Apart from the observations of Commander Vries and others who followed his example, and who during the seventeenth century were fired with the spirit of venture, information is hard to obtain. In fact, so little attention

a rampart protecting the inner peak; Chacha-nobori, the mountain near the coast one sees on arrival.

did the Kuriles attract that it was not until the year 1875 that they were brought into any degree of prominence. This was owing to a treaty that was entered into between Japan and Russia. It was then proposed that Japan should give up her rights to the southern portion of Saghalien, known as Krafto, which was at that time her most northerly possession. In exchange for this concession Russia relinquished all claim, real or disputed, to the Kuriles. These had not been officially explored, and were said to be before that date the goal of excommunicated criminals of the great Asiatic continent of Russia.

Severity of climate, together with the isolated position, seemed well adapted for the requirements of the punitive law. Fierce, ungovernable natures languished in captivity and in iron bondage, till death released them from remorse and misery. At the time of the exchange of negotiations, we may gather that the Russians considered Chishima altogether their own, and ignored the rights of any other nation to their occupation. Anyhow, Japan was not in a position to decline the proposal. She accepted the exchange and preamble of the text with a good grace, weighing the matter well, and looking to the future possibilities of her diplomats and armies, which were ultimately rewarded. In 1905, after the Japanese war with Russia, the southern half of Saghalien was receded and restored as part of the war indemnity. Thus the Kuriles as well as Krafto passed irrevocably into the possession of Japan. Although the whole of Saghalien was yearned for, failing to obtain so great a prize, Japan comforted herself with Krafto only, in remembrance that above the

50 degree latitudes the *sakura-no-ki* (cherry-trees) would not flourish.

The Kuriles are marked on the official maps as follows; they are divided from the touch of Kamchatka by the Chishima Straits. They depend just below Petropavilosko, which is Russian territory:

ARIAD (this is a small island), SHUMUSHI (a little larger), PARAMOSHI or PARAMUSHIRO (which is one of the largest), ONEKOTAN, SHUSHIKOTAN, SHUNSHIRU, SHIKOTAN, and URUP. Below these are the Straits of *Yetrop*. YETROP or ETORUP: this is the largest island of all, and has been visited by Captain Snow and other foreigners. Then follows SHANA, Rubetsu Prefecture. Below these the Tanse-moi Straits will be seen. KUNASHIRO is a fair size. SHIKOTAN. TOMARI: this has a lighthouse; and at NEMURO another lighthouse watches over the straits of the same name.

The Kuriles tend in position towards Karafuto from longitude 155° to 144° , latitude 52° to 45° , bearing north-west to north-east. They hem in the Sea of Okhotsk. Their total area is measured from between 4,900 to 5,000 square miles. The whole chain is more or less mountainous, but not entirely volcanic. The highest peaks measure from 12,000 to 15,000 feet. Dense though stunted forests, rich in verdure, lie at the bases of the elevations. Occasional luxuriance is to be met with, owing to the warm fog-banks that lie over the timbered lands, causing vegetation to thrive in its own peculiar manner.

The forests are hardly yet in workable condition, owing, like many other of Japan's possessions, to their primæval state and want of attention. Roads have not

yet been planned or laid. This disadvantage, together with the scarcity of any mechanical appliance for the transit of heavy haulage, delays progress. Nevertheless it is estimated that, when proper care and attention are directed to the cultivation and growth, and to the thinning and pruning, of the forests, they will prove a mine of wealth. Moreover, it has been stated that when active organization commences there will be found sufficient timber to supply the needs and requirements of the Empire from the Kuriles alone!

This important industry is, however, hampered by an insurmountable hindrance of a very serious nature—namely, the intense cold and severity of the climate, and of fierce and continual tempests raging for months at a time. During this revelry of Nature, the aborigines even are forced to remain idle and inert, hiding as best they can to shelter themselves from the inclemency of winter. Their dwellings are very miserable, totally inadequate for the latitude of cold and snow and ice. These huts are constructed of pieces of wood selected from the wreckage that drifts to the seaboard. Thin planks are plastered together, and made as secure as possible with dried herbage and the bark of trees. The roofs are tall and peaked, covered also with vegetable thatch of the coarsest kind. Glass is a substance unknown; the only protection of the windows is a straw or rush mat or a few planks, which exclude the light as well as temper the cold. The Kurilians are not thrifty, and, if care is not taken to provide for the dark months of the year, there is little comfort to be found within the homes. Oil taken from the whale or the hair seal provides light, and a rude lamp is constructed

by means of long wicks which flare and emit the most disagreeable smell. This affects the interiors of the dwellings and adds to the discomfort of winter. Sometimes, in the more northern regions, dwellings are constructed near the shore, half underground, where the continual burden of the tides has caused depressions by being forced on land. Pieces of wreckage are lugged into position and utilized as log huts within sight of the ships and the sea. But few ships pass through the North Pacific during the months of storm and tempest, darkness and snow, and the islands lie landlocked by the insurmountable barriers of ice—ice that is more formidable in its presence than many another foe. The temperature is far below freezing; the huge pieces of seal and other flesh have to be unfrozen in the near proximity of the flaring oil wicks before they can be partaken of by the most hungry inmates. A bad season spells famine for many, and it is only by that wonderful *camaraderie* that exists among the very poor and suffering, that the communities manage to sustain life in times of great distress. Mortality is very frequent during severe seasons, and many sleep their lives away if the cold is prolonged.

Sometimes the cold and the darkness without is relieved by outbursts from volcanic mountains that are to be seen near, or at a distance far out in the frozen deep, flashing their angry flare over the desolation, rumbling and thundering through the silence and the scene of inaction; speaking in their warning voices their messages and their sermons of a power greater than man's, which is ever near and around those terror-struck communities, unthought of and uncared for by the world at large.

The first breath of spring comes like a whisper of hope. It is naturally chilly and cold, for the ice gives way, cracking and splitting hither and thither with loud reports, deafening in sound, echoing from north to south, from east to west. The ice, however, does not melt or disappear, but piles up in broken slabs and fragments along the seaboard. Large quantities bear down from the north, from the Sea of Okhotsk, and find an anchorage round the southern islands and Yeso. This frozen fringe remains well into the summer as an ever-present foretoken of that which will occur again and again. But the hungry inhabitants have watched for this phenomenon and metamorphosis, because through the first holes and cracks the welcome sight of last year's belated seals, seeking light and air from their long imprisonment, can be observed. These are captured by spearing or clubbing at low water, if the hunter is patient enough to watch and to wait, in rigid suspense of limb as well as concentration of sight, for the presence of his prey. A piece of fresh flesh that can be eaten soon after capture proves a toothsome and delightful meal after winter's frozen store. The improvidence of the people is hard to credit, even in the face of Nature's extreme severity. Still, it must be recorded that even the most hardy among them cannot brave the ferocity of the gales, which endure for days at a time, and only lull to commence attacks of greater violence in these regions, rarely visited by sun or any other light for many weeks at a time.

Of the 4,000 isles that make up the great archipelago of the Japanese Empire, three distinct groups have been divided. Within these three, Chishima ranks the minor.

But colonies are important, and Japan will find work for her hardy and young patriots to undertake, particularly in these hitherto forbidding regions. Alternating with the sterile and stony land and the ash-strewn waste, where her elevated peaks have cast down their burdens and their destructive refuse, the presence of the dense forests gives a peculiar charm. It is in these forests, apart from their value as timber, that wealth lies waiting to be brought to the Mother Country. These stunted plantations of Nature are the haunts and homes of furbearing animals who seek protection in their deep-shadowed recesses, feeding on roots, and berries, and other edible substances that are to be found for the seeking, by bears, foxes, and other wild animals, pressed hard for nourishment. When the winter breaks up, the spring, or change, is very short ; summer follows quickly, one of considerable heat, stifling and close, the sunshine often being quite unable to penetrate the lingering fog, yet beating down over the belt of mist, and keeping the land in a continuous state of warm moisture. Sometimes this fog belt remains unlifted for the whole summer, from May or June till October. So dense is this veil that the sense of sight is powerless to penetrate a yard before the eyes. Vegetation alone rejoices in its advent and presence, and grows apace, fully aroused by its genial warmth and moisture from the torpor winter's severity imposes on all living indigenous flora.

The forests are of cedar, pine, maple, birch, cryptomeria, silkworm mulberry, etc. The island of Shikotan is one continuous forest. The flora and fauna of the Kuriles is much the same as that of Siberia. The spotted

and somewhat rare bamboo, whose markings resemble those of the tortoise shell, is a valuable article of commerce. The salmonberry, also called the raspberry (but earning the first name on account of its colour), is sought for greedily for its refreshing fruit. Strawberries, nuts, and rose apples are also reported to grow in some of the islands. Captain Golownin, when exploring $45^{\circ} 39'$ N. latitude and $149^{\circ} 34'$ E. longitude, descanted on the discovery of herbs, among which were enumerated sorrel, "the same as grows at home"; also the wonderful sea-grass, called by the Japanese *Tombu* (*Fucus esculentus*). This grass forms food for the seals in time of need, and is also considered wholesome food for man, being somewhat sustaining and nutritious; its leaves are 50 feet in length. It is collected with other sea-plants and seaweed in the great ingathering of the sea-harvests, which are encouraged by the Japanese Government. As this industry is protected and yields a good and rich return, many thousands of Japanese are engaged at certain times of the year in carrying on the trade.

The cold northern waters do not in any way hinder life. Fish of many kinds find their homes and propagate their species therein; one form of life feeds voraciously upon another. Shoals of herring that dart and gleam with their silvery scales below the surface are devoured by the yearly summer marine visitors, who have discovered where to seek and find nourishment. The waters of the North Pacific from the eastern side of the Kuriles to the shores of America are alive with seals of both species, otter, sea-lion, sea-otters, and whales. Of these man is not the only enemy, for the killer-whales follow in their track, and in consequence of one foe or

the other, the warfare in these arctic seas, forbidding in their character, is deadly and destructive.

Every portion of the seal and sea-otter is useful to man. For this reason, in and around Yeso they have been hunted from sheer necessity, almost to extermination. The skins or pelts provide clothing, as well as an excellent medium of barter and exchange. The flesh is eaten, and any portion not required is cast aside for the dressing of the land. Great luxuriance of vegetation abounds wherever the land is dressed with putrid flesh. The blubber and oil of the hair seal, which is found beneath the skin, provides both food and light. The intestines are utilized for string and materials for fastening. The skin is made into covering for boats. Although it takes 100 carcasses of the hair seal to produce a ton of oil, the necessity of light becomes the incentive for labour.

The hunting of the seal takes place in early summer. An enormous trade is carried on farther north, around the Aleutian, Alaska, and the Pribylof Islands. This, no doubt, makes the presence of the seals scarce in and around the Kurile group.

The method of capture as prosecuted by the Kurilsky-Ainu is not the same as that organized by the Russian-American Company, or by foreigners who have ventured so far north in search of the seal.

The Kurilians capture their prey when they venture upon the rocks out of the water, by means of entanglement in nets. The foreigner shoots the pinnipeds in the water, and the Russian-American Company drive them from their haunts, and slaughter them wholesale, by confining them in a small compass and striking the seals with clubs simultaneously, and, almost immediately—in

less than half an hour after slaughter—deprive the carcass of its skin, which has to be stretched on frames, as soon as possible after washing and cleansing. The system of capture in any way is very cruel, and savours of barbarism, whether conducted by Europeans or any other hunters. It is to be hoped that the early method of skinning the poor mammals almost alive has been by this time prohibited. Even those who have participated in the sport, or have been eye-witnesses of the way in which the capture is carried out to the bitter end, have expressed disapproval and disgust of the wholesale, merciless butchery inflicted on these sensitive and almost human creatures, whose very beauty has made them a prey to man—to man for gain, and woman for fashion.

* All species of seal and otter are fierce in their maternal and other passions. They suffer considerably when deprived of their young. Seals have been known to follow a ship for sixty miles. Their cries are almost human. But as the trade is a certainty, and as there are many hunters willing to put up with endless discomforts to become rich by reason of the gain this fur trade secures, there is little chance of the fisheries decreasing for want of enterprise. Expedition in the undertaking and carrying out of the trade is absolutely necessary. Unless the fur receives immediate attention after the animal is slaughtered, the pelts become spoilt and useless from a marketable point of view. Seals are scarce in the waters surrounding the Kuriles, but both the fur seal, *Otaria ursina*, and the sea-otter, *Latax lutris*, are

* Through the kindness of a friend who visited and personally inspected the seal rookeries, I have been able to give the following interesting details.—C. M. S.

still to be met with. The sea-lion, *Otaria stelleri*, are still plentiful. They have not the value of the two former, and are decreasing in number where they were once numerous. The variety known as the Black Sea Lion, *Otaria gillespii*, is also occasionally taken. The hair seals, *Phoca vitulina*, that favour these regions, are the most welcome visitors to the natives, for it is the flesh of the hair seals that is eaten, and the oil and blubber that is so useful to man. But the hauls that are taken in and around the Kuriles sink into insignificance when compared to the enormous numbers that are captured in the Aleutian and Pribylof islands by the Amalgamated Companies, year after year, below the Behring Straits. There the coming of the great "schools" is awaited with keen anxiety, for on the arrival of the "ambassador bulls" a scene of the greatest activity commences. These fine animals, that range from 260 to 400 pounds in weight, arrive in splendid condition, well fed, and sleek in the early years of their lives. But as time goes on they become hideous in appearance. Marks of fierce conflicts that have taken place between them have left indelible scars upon their once fine fur. Deadly combats are entered into as soon as the fair females are to be seen approaching. This takes place a month after the arrival of the bulls, who have fought with each other to secure the best places of vantage. Each bull is eager to captivate from eight to ten brides for his harem, and woe betide any rival who dares to dispute the right he has to make a selection.

So fierce are their passions and their jealousy, that, in the first place, any wavering on the part of the prospective brides is promptly quelled, and they are treated



C.M.S.

NO. IV.

SEALS CONGREGATING AT THE KURILES.

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with little ceremony. They are literally slapped with the heavy flippers, their ears are boxed, and they are finally taken by the scruff of the neck, shaken, and deposited in their special places in the rookery appointed for their sojourn for the time being. When once the harem is organized, the bulls never leave their posts to feed during the whole time of their occupation. They are too anxious to stray even for an hour, and if the females attempt to digress from the narrow path they are permitted to traverse to get to the water for procuring food for themselves and an occasional swim, they are instantly secured and kept prisoners for a certain time as a punishment.

As "a hungry man is an angry man," so these lords of the sea turn wrathful in their anxiety to preserve the mothers of their offspring from any annoyance or overtures from without. The prescribed limits of their habitation remain unaugmented. Sometimes when brawls occur, the roaring of the bulls resembles thunder. This, heard under the veil of fog or semi-darkness, produces a weird effect, and at times strikes terror into the hearts of those who hear it at a distance. But it betrays to the newcomers on the scene the exact locality of the several harems. However fierce may be the guardians of the kelp-covered rocky dominions so arbitrarily governed, there is no doubt that the prolonged fast accelerates their wrath. Arriving in splendid condition, they depart mere skeletons, owing to their protracted hunger and ceaseless anxious vigils. If by any chance a bull dies, a tremendous battle ensues if the vacancy is worth the venture. Many suitors are occasionally left out when the homes are being organized; a death in their midst is therefore not an event to be regretted.

As only seals of a certain age are captured for their coating—which age is between four and five years—many young males are left to return another season. Seldom more than one pup is born to each mother. Extreme care is necessary on the part of the hunters in order to avoid killing specimens in the early stage of their lives. Being mammals, the pups seek protection and the nourishment that is readily granted, though only procurable for a short time. Somehow the knowledge of future trouble and separation seems to cast its shadow over the family circle, and to deepen that maternal solicitude that is apparent among this particular tribe. The cubs are trained early to sport and play in the water and among the rocks, and dive for the fish that is their ultimate nourishment, while their mothers look on ready for self-sacrifice if any harm threatens their young.

The furs of the sea-otters of the Kuriles supply the markets of London and other centres. Owing to the handsome appearance of the skins they command high prices, because the sea-otter is not anywhere over-abundant in so fine a condition. The otters were formerly found in great numbers on the east coast of Yeso, but when activity commenced and foreigners advanced their claims to visit these hunting centres, these pinnipeds forsook their old haunts and sought refuge on the south-eastern side of the Kuriles.

Of the discovery of this northern circuit of Japan, it is next to impossible to give any accurate dates relating to the first trading enterprise. All we know is that these valuable pelts were ever in demand both in China and other Eastern countries, as well as in America and Europe. Very little is really known con-

cerning trade in these latitudes, or how long ago the aborigines of the North were cognizant of the usefulness or value of much that lay near at hand from a commercial point of view. But skins were exchanged for rice and other comestibles as early as A.D. 1615. They were for some time a means of barter and exchange between the inhabitants and the foreigners, who were venturesome enough to push into the Northern unexplored regions, for practical purposes.

That many found pleasure in the venture there is little doubt. During that period of the history of Japan in which a dual form of government existed, the most costly gifts were selected for presentation to Shogun and Daimio. Among the list of presents the skins of sea-otters were recorded as offerings mete for the acceptance of influential potentates and princes.

The principal islands, which include Shikotan, Shumshir, Yetorup, and Urup, were those first visited. We have grown familiar with their importance. For some time they were jealously guarded—that is to say, when they finally passed into the hands of the Japanese. But all was more or less in a state of chaos, which was necessarily the case, as the removal of many of the Russian prisoners took place, and the Japanese were for the time being uninformed of the possibilities of the exchanged possession. The permission to hunt seals, otters, and sea-lions being rarely granted to foreigners, difficulties arose and vessels were often confiscated and sportsmen baulked of their prey.* Lives were constantly lost, together with all worldly belongings. Shipwrecks and

* *In Forbidden Seas*, by Captain Snow. London: Arnold, India Office.

accidents frequently occurred, owing to the dangers of navigation and other causes. The climate is not suitable to Europeans, whose craving for comfort increases rather than diminishes as time goes on. The region now belongs to Japan, and it is more suitable for the persevering, pushing, enterprising Japanese, who are willing to brook any discomfort, accept any disadvantage that will ultimately produce gain either for self or country, and who are ever on the alert to expand and enhance the interest of the Land of the Rising Sun.

But the climate does not agree always even with the Japanese, and at first many succumbed to its influence, both as regards extreme moisture or severity of cold. Those who newly settled suffered most, and many died from various causes—privation of usual food, needed activity, and insufficient housing, not from unnatural causes, either of sickness or disease.

Among the many drawbacks which exist in this northern chain, added to the dense darkness of winter and the fog girdle of summer, the ice-floes, snowstorms, typhoons and hurricanes, volcanic fires and seismic disturbances, there is yet another, the most terrible of all—the innumerable swarms of mosquitoes. The islands are surrounded with heaps of many varieties of seaweed. This, entangled in the jetsam and flotsam of frequent shipwrecks, creates a dangerous trap—a slippery fringe of marine vegetation that is constantly decaying on the low, unsafe rocks. Sometimes its odour is very offensive, though the kelp is agreeable to the seals, who lie and rest on its soft surface, particularly on the eastern side of the islands, which affords the best shelter during the later months of summer. It is there that mosquitoes

are a plague to man. Sea-birds also seek favourable creeks and crevices among this plenitude of particoloured vegetation, and trust to the dangers accompanying the venture to gain security from their hunters.

Of the birds that are mentioned as having found a home within the radius of the Kuriles, mention may be made in particular of certain species that have attracted the attention of visitors since the first discovery of Captain Maerten Gerrits Vries in 1615. The subjoined list is given tentatively because, although they are known in Yeso and Krafu, they have been only occasionally found in this particular group of islands of the East Pacific: falcon, hawk, ice-hawk, fish-eagle, sea-eagle and kite, eared owl and ghost owl, hooting owl, caliope, guillemots, puffins, fulmars, gulls, petrels, nightingale, wagtail (this is the sacred bird of the Ainu, said to have assisted the making of the world at the time of its creation). The reason of the bird ceaselessly moving its tail, tradition tells us, is that its first progenitors followed man to beat down the newly-turned-up sod after seed had been scattered. There are also birds familiar to us in England. After all, we are upon much the same degree of latitude, and though as a rule our climate is more genial, we are really nearer to the North Pole. Of our birds so commonly seen in all parts of England, species have been sighted of tomtit, house-sparrow, lark, blackbird, starling, raven, crow, magpie, woodpecker, kingfisher, chicken, pigeon, ducks, geese, petrel, ruffs, woodsnipe, and many others. These species have been named in the Japanese and Ainu language. This list, which is given from P. F. von Siebold's book, already mentioned, is authenticated either by personal observa-

tion, by procuring skins, or by drawings, by which means they were identified. According to the temperature, or the approach of a winter of extreme severity, the birds migrate from West to East.

Quantities of fish are found for the seeking—shoals of herring, which are the staple food of the seal ; cod in certain places for the use of man ; mackerel, perch, plaice, sole, skate, lamprey, and gurnet. Salmon is plentiful. It is by no means a very exaggerated fact that, owing to the large number of this fish, boatmen have found many of the rivers impossible of navigation at certain seasons. It has been stated that, in 1785, 3,600,000 pounds of salmon, salted and cured, were obtained for commerce. This account does not include the fishing round Chishima ; it applies to the near vicinity—the Sea of Japan, the Sea of Okhotsk, and Kamschatka. The whale that yields the sperm is plentiful.

Edible vegetables are very scarce ; the enormous consumption of marine food accounts for the serious skin affections that plague the aborigines.

Now that the Japanese have established colonies in the main islands of Shikotan, Etorup, Shumshir, and other parts, a system of agriculture will soon be developed. However difficult this may be at first to organize, it should prove a lasting blessing, and give healthy and useful employment, coupled with new interest in life, to a people who are possessed of many fine traits of character. Lieutenant Gunji's adventure with forty other Japanese sailors, in 1892, to these islands is well known. This laudible task of expanding the possibilities of the Kuriles had been his great ambition.

This daring adventure was undertaken in open boats,

and nearly proved a failure, but some show of interest was needed at the time. A Governor-General has been since appointed to look after this valuable dependency, which is included in the Northern Circuit. At present the islands are sparsely populated; about half are Japanese, the rest of the 4,000 inhabitants are either Ainu, Kurilsky-Ainu, or a few from Saghalien. It was found at the re-ceding of Saghalien that the greater number were Russian convicts. Those who cared to do so remained behind to be governed henceforth by the foreigner. For the present no European can take up permanent abode; he could never face the cold, the want of absolute necessities stares him in the face, and comforts are nil. Even the keenest sportsman and the bravest sailors cannot endure the lengthened trials of terrible weather of storms and snow, tempests, and high seas. Though fish and fowl are plentiful for the seeking, there is no substitute for bread, and vegetables have never been cultivated to any useful extent, not even during the best and sunniest season of the year—the two later summer months. Tide “rips” and typhoon, nipping cold, and a barometer below zero, frequent shipwrecks, and want of companionship, are among some of the many difficulties to be encountered. From this it will be understood this group only offers a few attractions to venturesome explorers bent on endeavouring to overcome difficulties for the purpose of proclaiming their paramount power over the lower order of creation. The Ainu and other savage inhabitants are not a disagreeable community; far from it. Their looks belie them. Their ferocity, which appears to be estimated by their hairy appearance, is not easily aroused nowadays. It

may have served them well in the past, but the energy of their conquerors—whom they once in the sixth and other centuries routed—is now turning the tables upon them. A Japanese in their midst fills the Ainus with fear and trembling. Apart from the discipline the Japanese establish, their activity appals these sluggish, almost inanimate savages, reduced through years of neglect, to “do nothing in a hurry, not even that which is good.” They are terribly afraid of the enterprising invaders, who have won far more than the scanty possessions of the aborigines and their mean homes, by the flash of the sword and their destructive guns, so deftly handled against the would-be conquerors. The Ainu from all former traditions has descended in the scale of humanity. He would prefer to be left alone with little of this world’s goods, to dwindle out as a race forgotten, if Fate had so decreed, by the rest of mankind. In the dark winter the torpor created by want of warmth and food renders the Kurilsky-Ainu impervious and indifferent to the danger of comatose sleepiness, from which there may be no awakening. The silence, coupled with the inactivity of Nature without, the ice-floes amalgamating and forming impregnable barriers round his sea-girt territory, the absence of all labour through the inclemency and rigour of winter, the terrific fires of distant mountains burning their beacons far out at sea, as if to warn off the most venturesome with their deadly glare, only alternated by loud reports of sudden eruptions, are deemed sufficient in their menace to ward off the approach of any other terror. Amid squalor, neglect, famine, without any comforts, and but few necessities, these gentle, ignorant, unthought-of members of the

universal family, endowed like us all with immortal souls by the Hand Divine, sleep, oblivious to their lot in winter, or dawdle their days away, year by year, till they are released from their wretched condition by the merciful hand of Death.

When Chishima was in Russian hands an attempt was made to introduce Christianity and the tenets of the Greek Church into the island. Here and there evidences of this attempt may be seen, and perchance a few among the Russians left have preserved some of these dim recollections of Divine love. These tenets may have been handed down from one generation to another. But as communication between Yeso and the Kuriles still exists, the primitive ideas and traditions, superstitions, and observances preponderate. *Totems* to ward off evil, the preservation and worship of the bear, and other beliefs concerning the power that lies hidden in Nature, are the only incentives to stimulate moral obligations. Fear of evil spirits being the first instinct, or veneration for those effects which are witnessed, but not understood, alone supply a certain governing influence over the untutored, gentle savage.

We can but hope that in the future, however far off, that exhortation uttered in the ages long, long ago may be heard and understood :

“Sing unto the Lord a new song, and His praise from the ends of the earth, ye that go down to the sea, and all that is therein; the isles and the inhabitants thereof.”

V

KARAFUTO

THE SOUTHERN HALF OF THE ISLAND OF SAGHALIEN

KARAFUTO, whose name must arouse feelings of pride in the heart of each true patriot within the Mikado's dominions, was, as we are aware, discovered, lost, and ultimately reclaimed by Japan. It is a trophy of war, a spoil of victory, the result of battles by sea and land, well organized, well fought, and won !

By many a more advanced nation the deeds that restored this far Northern dependency to her former master were considered daring in the extreme ; nevertheless, they were organized, undertaken, and accomplished. They will for ever remain written upon the pages of history, chronicled as a paramount achievement of Dai Nippon ; stamping the campaign of 1905 as the most brilliant success of arms in the Far East, and a longed-for treasure regained.

Karafuto, better known by the name of Saghalien, attracted but little attention from the world in general until the end of the nineteenth century, except on the part of the early maritime explorers in the sixteenth century, when Quast, Tasmann, Vries, and others investigated the islands of the Pacific Ocean from north to south. Many of these possessions were claimed first by one nation and then another ; but even then there was little enterprise to arouse a spirit of emulation, for

they were utilized principally as *terra firma* upon which to exile criminals whose presence was considered detrimental to the mother countries, but who had not committed offences worthy of death. These offenders were permitted to live at a safe distance. They often proved the first labourers—tillers of the soil or fellers of trees—in those places where, at least, if they could not do any good, they could not effect much harm. Karafuto was regarded at first as too bleak and barren to offer any possibilities in the way of expansion. It is true it was considered useful as a buffer-state against the vast continent of Manchuria. That, far-seeing diplomatists felt, might prove a menace in time to come. In fact, it is very doubtful if any dream of expansion, such as is now being organized, ever entered the minds of those who from time to time claimed the right of its control.

As far as the early history is concerned, Karafuto was in the same state of disorganization as that which existed more or less in that part of Japan now included in the Northern Sea Circuit. The first Japanese to cross the barrier and set foot in the island of Yezo were refugees who, in the time of the first Shōgun, destroyed and frustrated the hopes and ambitions of Fujiwara no Yasuhira in 1189. It was ruled over soon after by Nobuhiro Takeda, who fortified the island and held arbitrary sway over the three important centres lying in close proximity. But the rule was purely military and punitive, quite insufficient for the extent of territory. For this reason, any attempt to raise the people from semi-barbarism to civilization was never entertained. Progress was not desired. Agriculture

was not encouraged. Civilization was not thought desirable, because the people could be better held in check the more ignorant they remained. Taxes were levied upon fishing, as well as upon boats and ships entering the harbour. Roads were not opened up ; communication, where it might have proved beneficial, was not organized. Thus Saghalien was under a ban of tyranny, and suffered like the rest of the northern islands. This began to be felt in the year 1454. The clan of Matsumayé, that had absolute control, favouring the policy of the Shōgun, excluded the foreigner. Being unable through want of knowledge how to set about reform in the right spirit, the administrators, in whose hands rested the development, left the community absolutely alone. But at the decline of the Shōgunate in 1854, a new phase entered the political spirit. Acknowledging the failures of the past, an entire *bouleversement*, based on wider knowledge and philanthropy, triumphed. Kindness and attention to the wants of the people were among the changes for the better.

Mitsukuni Tokugawa was one of the first to organize exploring parties. These were divided and sent to the three northern islands, including Saghalien. Several expeditionary branches, headed by able men, followed suit. These effected much good, to their lasting credit.

From the year 1861 and onwards a wonderful change came over the Northern Sea Circuit. Successive Colonial Governments and Central Governments were tried. Some failed, others succeeded for a time, but the change for the better was not firmly established until in the year 1871, when Kiyotaka Kuroda was

ultimately appointed Vice-Governor of *Hokkaidō*. Furthermore, it was determined that Saghalien should be included within his jurisdiction. Kiyotaka Kuroda was in favour of entire regeneration, which has led to the comfort and happiness of the people, who were found worthy of the consideration bestowed upon them. Among other reforms and benefits should be mentioned those relating to the maritime laws, which have been favourably expanded for the advancement of fisheries into wider circuits. Fishing had always naturally been crippled during the term of feudalism, when the right to fish in certain waters had been confined to monopoly, that is to say, to provincial localities. Since the Restoration fishermen have ventured far beyond the limits of their own immediate coast-line. They have been furnished, or put in the way of securing, the best tackle, nets, and all paraphernalia necessary for the prosecution of their trade. Every encouragement has been afforded them. Deep-sea fishing has also become of great importance, which was formerly almost impossible of being carried to a successful issue during the time of the dual government ; for the Shōguns were extremely arbitrary in their restrictions, particularly in this respect. Now there are thirty ships and 800 men engaged in deep-sea fishing, and the number of both ships and men is on the increase.

Saghalien boasts of many able fishermen. The trade in the waters of the Amur will yearly improve when a thorough and definite understanding in the matter is arrived at between Japan and Russia, promised at the signing of the release of Saghalien in 1905. Commerce will receive an impetus unparalleled in the history of

Saghalien, for goods and food-stuff are largely in demand. Rice, tea, vegetables, fruits, ropes, mats, coal, oil, salted fish, are exchanged with Russian Asia. The establishment of good and mutual understanding is the cause of this useful and extensive trading. Japanese fishermen may now extend their operations from the north to the south, from Saghalien to the Philippine Islands.

Between Russia and Yeso hangs the long, thin island of Saghalien.* It dips, crescent-like, along the cold sea-board of that great Asiatic continent of Russia known as Siberia.

Saghalien is separated from Siberia by the Gulf of Tartary. Studying the geographical survey of this coveted island, there is no doubt that in ages long, long ago it once formed part of the Russian mainland. The contour of the coast-line justifies this remark. It is evident that in prehistoric times some great convulsion of Nature set it adrift and determined its present aspect. Saghalien depends like a giant arm provided with pincers or claws seeking to secure its nearest oceanic prize, or to grasp the hem of Yeso's territory in a fierce or friendly grip.

Half of the island of Saghalien, up to the 50°, was ceded to the Russians in May, 1875. It was exchanged for the group known as *Chishima*, or the Kuriles. This transaction was made in the days of Japan's first awakening, when political suggestions from neighbouring countries had to be courteously accepted. The exchange was a subject of much comment among

* This name was given to the whole of the island, and seems to be retained by the Russians for the upper half to this present day.

the rising generation of young politicians and ardent patriots of that time.*

Saghalien was only held intact by the Russians until the termination of hostilities.

In the treaty of peace between Japan and Russia, signed at Portsmouth, U.S.A., September 5, 1905, we read in Article 9 that *Russia cedes to Japan the southern part of Saghalien Island as far north as the fiftieth degree of north latitude, together with the island depending thereon. The right of free navigation is assured to Japan in the Bays of La Perouse and Tartary.* Also,

* It was in the year 1875 that an International Congress of Orientalists was held in London. Learned men had mustered from many countries. The chief centres of the world sent delegates and representatives to join in the exchange of mutual ideas on certain subjects principally connected with the Near and Far East.

During that time there were about 200 young Japanese students in London. They organized among themselves a literary society, to which I had the honour of being invited. Subjects of interest were discussed, general and political. On the particular evening that I was able to attend, the subject of the exchange for the southern half of Saghalien was brought forward. The meeting was very animated. Everyone present seemed to find it necessary to make remarks. Some grew very grave over the exchange. It was soon evident the arrangement entered into between the adjacent countries was not giving universal satisfaction.

Perchance some of the offspring of these ardent young patriots may be to-day taking part in the regeneration of Karafuto. For it is evident that many improvements are contemplated, and that Karafuto is by no means the least promising ocean courtier of Dai Nippon.

The meeting above mentioned was to have closed at ten o'clock p.m. Tea had been ordered and prepared accordingly for the guests. In vain the clinking of china cups and saucers and the tinkling of teaspoons on the part of waiters sounded to arouse the enthusiasts to the "business of the hour" in the commissariat part of the building. At last, in despair, a regular fusillade of thumps on the folding-doors of the tea-room was resorted to by the waiters in attendance. When the tea was handed round the brew was quite black and well stewed. Milk and sugar were not included in the menu!

Article 10 deals with the situation of Russian subjects in South Saghalien.

The island is now shared between these two Eastern countries. Although matters seem progressing favourably, there may in the future be complications, for the land is, and ever will be, dear to the Japanese, particularly that which was once exclusively their own.

As soon as the affair was settled, no time was lost in thoroughly investigating the reclaimed colony. Thirty years of banishment had not been spent in unprofitable regret. The eyes of Japan had been opened. Younger statesmen, as well as "the elders," had learnt wisdom. The whole system of government had undergone a change. Firmly rooted as her traditions had been, and isolated her position from the rest of mankind, the dangers that knocked at her door had to be listened to. The internal disquieting disorganization was found to be tottering; to arise, as if from sleep, and review the surprising situation, required a very sensible awakening. The choice had to be decided on and carried through. But as this book is not intended to be an historical account, but only a résumé of information on a very interesting theme, suffice it to say that when Karafuto was restored to her former master great was the joy. Those alone who have lost and refound even some small treasure or jewel, set in the surrounding of a deep sentiment or a sweet memory, can realize what the restoration of Karafuto must have been after many years of ceaseless longing for its re-possession.

It was in April, 1907—that is, two years after the signing of the treaty of peace between Russia and

Japan—that an administrative Government came into force. A Governor-General was appointed, whose rule now extends over Yeso, Karafuto, and Chishima.* Public affairs are under his control. The first step undertaken by which Karafuto was to profit was the organizing of expeditionary parties to survey the land. Upon this being accomplished, the laying down of railroads and trolly-lines followed, the making of good roads to traverse from the sea-board to the interior, and finally, the apportioning of land for agricultural purposes. A strict inquiry into the productive possibilities of the land was made, especially as regards the coal-fields, which were known to be of considerable value. The seat of Government is at Sapporō at the present time.

The island—or, rather, that portion of it whose description is comprised within this monograph—is about 300 miles in length, and from 100 to 300 miles in the widest part, and only measures twenty-four miles in the smallest portion—that is, between Kusunnai and Manui. The total area of the land is 2,200 *ri*, but all is not available for agricultural purposes. Life stagnates during five months in the year, when the ice-king holds his sway, as yet unconquered. At Maoka it is only 38° F., while at Shikika it is only 29° F. In January the cold sinks to 40° below freezing-point. The aboriginal inhabitants feel this severity more than the colonist. The women of these uncivilized communities have to bear nearly all the burden of work.

* Mr. K. Ishihara is at present the Governor of Hokkaidō. This is a very important official appointment. Alterations in the Governorship are frequent.

The men drink and sleep, and, when awake, watch and guard their *inao*, or willow offerings, to their gods. Not being cleanly in habit or dress, or particular about food, drink just keeps them alive. They will not bestir themselves, for they imbibe spirit until nourishment of a more wholesome nature is prepared and placed before them by the tired wife, whose work for self or wages goes on all the year round. It is only of late years that their condition has improved. The most tractable labourers have been singled out and educated. We learn with much gratification that a certain number of Ainu have been sufficiently advanced to rank among Christians.

The Rev. John Batchelor, F.R.G.S., who spent many years among the Ainu of Yeso, has done noble work—work that must bear fruit in the future. At the time of his sojourn among the aborigines of the north, it was no light undertaking on his part to go among such ignorant, untutored men. The appearance of a white man always arouses suspicion, but in course of time this brave traveller won the regard and affection of a people who ultimately became convinced of his good will and sincerity for their welfare.

The Rev. J. Batchelor's labours have aroused universal interest. Within his book are to be found many delightful and strange legends and traditions, entirely new to many of us at the time of their publication. They throw light on the quaint, barbarous, unique, and sometimes childish customs preserved among the Ainu. But although the race has wandered all over the Northern Sea Circuit, Saghalien is peopled by four distinct tribes, the Ainu numbering 13,000, the Russians 200, the

Japanese 45,000, and the Orochons 300. The Ainu have been found a very easy people to govern as well as educate. They have a simple vocabulary of their own. In appearance, when well washed, they are fairer than the Japanese. Their hair is a rusty black, dull and rather matted, profuse in its growth, which has given them a racial distinction from their present victors. Their eyes are often blue; their skin not so yellow as the Japanese. In fact, they are a distinct race with distinct peculiarities. The oblique setting of the eyes is not a peculiarity among them. There is not that glitter and intellectual light in the orb of the Ainu that is so very pronounced in the eyes of the Japanese. They are languid in expression, portraying a reserve of manner and thought almost amounting to pride, or even indifference or scorn.

The surrounding waters abound in whales, otter, sable, and fish. Herrings, cod, salmon, and other edible species are plentiful. These are secured for food or exportation. The number of penguins that congregate is enormous. These are fussy and noisy in their movements and cries as they huddle together upon the rocky shores.

The forests of trees commence their growth at the water's edge and gradually climb up the mountains for several miles inland on the south side. These forests are of Birch (*Shira-kamba*), Willow (*Yanagi*), Larch (*Todo-matsu* and *Ezomatsu*), Oak (*Kashi-no-ki*), and Black Alder (*Hari-no-ki*). They make fine shelter from the winter storms that revel around the Sea of Okhotsk. Fur-bearing animals are safe within their regions, for the cold and the darkness alike cripple the ambitions of the

hunters. In the summer Karafuto presents a different aspect. Long fields of barley and of rye, of wheat and of peas, thrive in the warm, moist atmosphere that just lingers long enough to bring the grain to a marketable condition. Potatoes, beans, carrots, turnips and other vegetables are raised, thus affording wholesome nourishment. China grass, rape seed, peppermint, herbs, and even tobacco in small quantities will thrive with special care and treatment, together with the soya bean, a favoured condiment among Orientals. The forests of Karafuto, like those of Formosa, are the glory of the land in their virginal loveliness, unspoiled by the woodman's axe and the arboriculturist's plans for making prospective views to distant lake, and sea, and flowing rivers. Buildings of any antiquity there are none; sometimes the traveller sights the ruin of some Roman Catholic chapel, erected and used for worship, but ultimately neglected by the Russians when in possession of the island. The superabundance of forestry has made the tasks of thinning and clearing trees far too colossal an undertaking for the aborigines. The work will require the strength of the energetic Japanese, who will scarcely be able to carry out their ambitions without the aid of mechanical appliances, trolly-lines, and conveyances suitable for carting the huge monarchs of the earth to their ultimate destination—namely, to some far distant part of the Mother Country, or to lands whose wealth does not lie in the source of valuable timber of the growth of many centuries.

There are simple forests and compound forests—that is to say, some forests consist of only one species of tree, such as the extensive larch tracts. *Karamatsu* or larch,

that springs almost from the sea-board, grows half-way up the mountains : while in the compound forest are seen *Ezomatsu* and *Todo-matsu*, which cover the plains in the interior of the northern boundary. But as building is going on apace, the demand for beams and stays, door and window frames, boarding and other component parts, will call on native labour for the supplies needed to carry out architectural constructions. This will enable trade to develop, and by force of example the labourer will seek work. In course of time this colony should be self-supporting.

The dog is trained for active service in many ways. Small boats are hauled over the surf by the united efforts of four or five of these animals leashed together with hempen string or rope. Dogs are also trained to catch fish. They lie in wait upon the sea-shore or the river's bank for the salmon that crowd together during the fishing-season. One relay of canine watchers intuitively relieves the other if the term of waiting has to be prolonged. When a rise becomes apparent, they swim stealthily into the water in a semicircular movement, track and flurry the fish, which get confused and seek the shallows. It is then they are seized by the dogs, who bite off the heads of the fish before bringing the booty to their masters. This sport can only be undertaken when the water is low. All the northerners love their dogs, and in fact all other animals that they are able to domesticate. The severities shared in common by master and canine companion tend to develop this mutual fidelity. Dogs are seldom known to prove unfaithful, even when death or starvation stares them in the face. Hunger during a prolonged winter carries off

a great number, for when food is scarce the dog has to be left out of the general distribution of meals, while his last effort will be to preserve the life of his master by giving the warmth of his body as his dying legacy. The dog will follow through the snowy tracts, anxious that the last life-giving effort should be to shield man from surrounding inclemency.

Since 1905 Odomari, Toyohara, Maoka, Kusunnai, Nodasan, Tomarioro, Kitanasuki, and Shikika, have been made into towns. Odomari is the most prominent on account of its magnificent harbour in the Gulf of Aniwa ; it is, moreover, favoured by colonists, who generally crowd together. There are many fine buildings already erected in many of the above-named places. Post-offices, schools, elementary and others. Roads have been laid, bridges built over rivers, ferries organized, and other comforts for public convenience taken in hand. The railways, formerly only used for military service, have been opened for traffic and conveyance between Odomari and Toyohara. A lighthouse has been erected, for the coast is dangerous in parts and needs protection. Robben Island, situated $48^{\circ} 34'$ latitude, $144^{\circ} 25'$ longitude, also offers many facilities to those who are inured to the hardships of a severe climate, and the risks that have to be run in these out-of-the-way fishing-fields.

The discovery of the Gulf of Aniwa was attributed to Commander Vries in the first place, and to Von Krusenstern for the confirmation of this event. But the Japanese geographers made full examination, and named the rivers, creeks, bays, and promontories, mountain chains, together with all other points of interest, in their own language. This was determined long, long ago. In the

early part of the seventeenth century, when the art of surveying was in its infancy in these parts, and traveling through unknown districts attended with much danger, the island of Karafuto was thought to be what certainly the contour of both coast-lines lead us to suppose—a peninsula torn away from the continent of Asia. In the matter of extent, Karafuto, taken from north to south, presents the longest continued island, and has no counterpart on the face of the globe.*

The Gulf of Aniwa, which is the result of the division of land south and east, forms an ideal anchorage. It is ninety English miles broad and seventy deep. In the beginning of the seventeenth century this land, which takes the shape of pincers, was only inhabited by the aboriginal Ainu.

Fajasi Sivei, to whom we are indebted for our first knowledge of any reliable nature, sighted no less than twenty-two villages, all of which were occupied by the hairy savage. This Japanese surveyor warned navigators of the dangers that existed around by reason of the rapid stream that flowed between Yeso and Saghalien. The ice-floes borne down from the Sea of Okhotsk contributed their perils, and stout hearts were needed who could nurse but little fear if trades were to prosper.

When the administration of Karafuto was taken in hand seriously, it was found judicious to divide it into three provinces. The population in 1907 amounted to 60,500 Japanese and Ainu ; together with 200 Slavs, who remained of their own free will, and accepted foreign jurisdiction.

The Ainu of Yeso are short and thick-set. Owing to

* Von Siebold.

the wadded garment worn by women and men, they are inclined to waddle, though some are fleet of foot when dire necessity demands haste. They utilize the furs of the seal and bear, and fur boots and caps are selected by the men for warmth. Owing to the various nationalities, the race has become mixed. The Japanese are in a measure responsible for this state of affairs.

As comforts multiply and are included in commercial importations, warm wool clothing, sustaining nourishment, surgical appliances, a wider pharmacy, also better-built huts and houses, will go a great way to effect a civilization that has become absolutely necessary if Karafuto is to be useful to the Japanese. Added to the above improvements, the luxury of coal-fires and gas must supersede the sickly ill-smelling oil wicks plunged into rancid whale and seal oil. Able administration is organized from Sapporō on the west, and all who are willing to work, and can endure the severity of the climate, should not want for employment. Agriculture, engineering, pit-work, tree-felling, building, and all methods of communication, require willing service to bring them to a state of usefulness and ultimate perfection. Progress will surely in time stimulate ambition. There is one blessing to be remembered, that is, that these arctic lands do not incite men to savagery, and we who have seen in our midst tribes from Japan's most northern limits, can extend our sympathy to the gentle savage. Though he may have descended in the scale of manliness, yet he has retained many pliant characteristics that, even if they may be accounted childish, are in no way combative or offensive.

The icy tracts, the mountainous districts of deep snow,

the internal fires of volcanoes, all add to the individuality of Karafuto. But there is no doubt these barriers in a measure keep off the impossible climate of the Arctic Seas and the North Pole. The cherry-trees that are the pride of Japan will in the milder season shed their scented petals just up to the dividing line. However severe the winter months may prove, fair flowers will blossom and soft fragrance will for a brief space remind even those in this present day, as it reminded the brave *samurai* of old, to deal leniently with their fellow-men. For notwithstanding the rush and the energy of modern times, there lingers in flowers and all forms of Nature that beautiful, silent, moral and religious symbolism that, if it does not appeal in everyday life to the Oriental, will steal into his heart in solitude, in a manner that is heard far above all speech, or sound, or any other distraction by which he is encompassed.

VI

- (I) THE PESCADORES, OR HOKŌ-TŌ ;
(II) BOTEL TOBAGO, OR KŌTO SHO ;

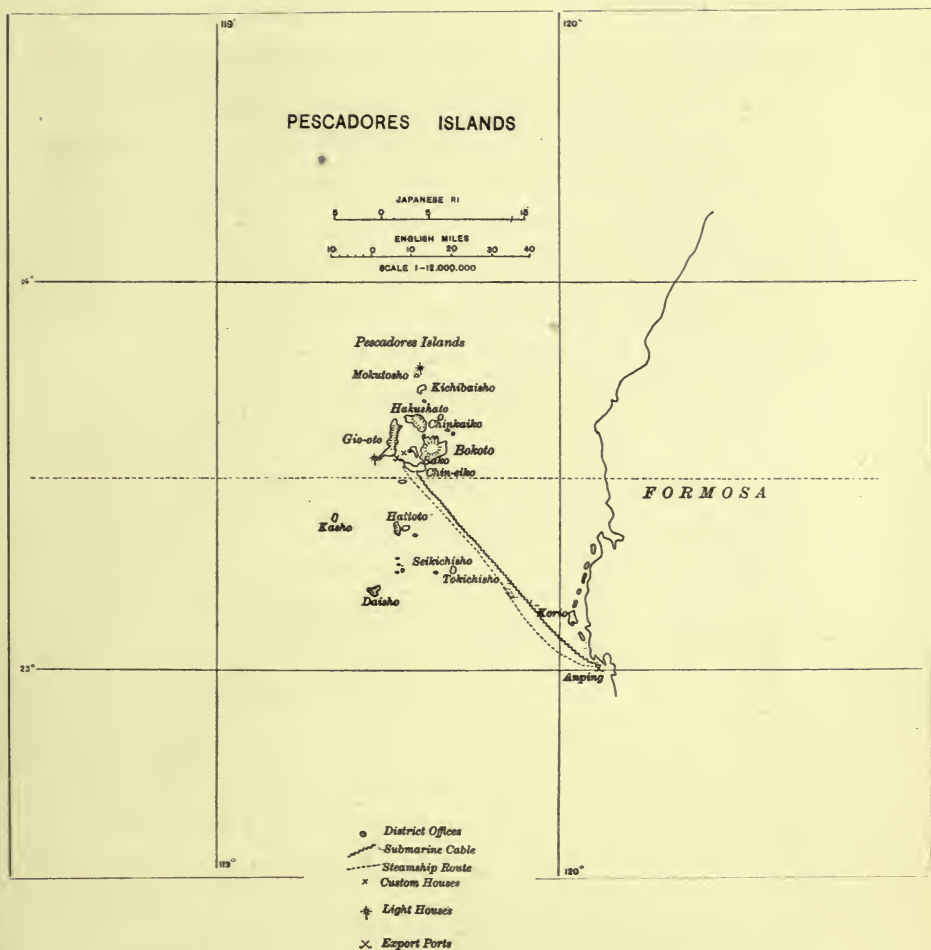
AND OTHER ISLANDS EAST AND WEST OF TAIWAN.

THESE islands fell to the Japanese in the year 1895, when Formosa was handed over after the China-Japan War. They were fought for and claimed as a portion of the indemnity after that conflict. The history of the Pescadores is somewhat meagre, but by reason of the many names given to them it is conclusive that they, like Formosa, have been appropriated and ruled over by various nations, including Holland, Spain, China, and now Japan. The name Peng-lin-ting is of Chinese origin, while Hokō-Tō, their latest synonym, is Japanese. But as this word stands the test of many interpretations, it is a little difficult to state for what reason they have earned the appellation, unless it is to remind the inhabitants of the fealty that the Mother Country expects of her courtiers. The word Hokō stands for a feudal baron ; to ramble, to roam about ; service-duty done to a master ; the labour, duty, or business of a servant ; direct, aim, object, and so forth. All these interpretations certainly bear upon service faithfully fulfilled, and justly required to be carried out between ruler and ruled.

The term Pescadores proves that extensive fisheries have been organized round the islands for centuries.

Considering the vast archipelagos in other oceans, the Pescadores may be considered a solitary group. A few

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THE PESCADORES (HOKŌ TŌ),
1905.

very insignificant tracts lie just a little way on the south, but these are unnamed, and are therefore of scant account. Again, between Kagi and Taiwan five islets of minor importance are to be sighted, close to the western shore.

The Pescadores are situated in the Straits of Formosa, which are sometimes geographically described as the Straits of Fukien. These straits divide Formosa from the province of Fukien. On the eastern side they lie opposite Kagi; on the west or Chinese side they face Swatow and Amoy. Above, there is the vast expanse of Tung-Hai or the Eastern Sea in the north, and Nan-Hai or the South Sea, south. The Tropic of Cancer runs through their very heart; they are naturally much affected by the Gulf Stream, which raises the climate to almost tropical heat in summer as it passes on its long journey to the northern regions. The Pescadores are situated at 23° to 24° latitude, 119° to 120° longitude. The chief island was formerly named Bird Island; the others are respectively called Pehoe, Making, Phean, and Poctan Island.

The inhabitants of the Pescadores number between 70,000 and 80,000; these are principally Chinese. By occupation they are fishermen, and seem a fairly peaceful community. Since the war between China and Japan the group has been visited by the missionaries of various denominations, among whom the Presbyterians have been somewhat successful. Converts to the true faith have been many. The missionaries, who had their headquarters in Swatow and Amoy, found the Pescadores easy of access, being a little over forty miles distant from the cluster. They were to be reached by the aid

of junks, or native boats, when the weather proved favourable. But in this respect the people have many drawbacks to contend with. The Pescadores are a storm-driven cluster. Typhoons of great violence play sorry havoc over them, and render many fishermen homeless and without the necessary appliances wherewith to continue their trade. Whole crops of grain are laid under water, trees torn down, and lives placed in imminent danger within the space of a few moments or hours. Terrors of many kinds have to be endured owing to the geographical situation of the group. To provide against such a contingency as a typhoon is impossible, proving after all how powerless we are to cope with the forces of Nature that the Almighty has reserved for His own undisputed control.

The Pescadores, like many other islands that have been found on investigation capable of becoming valuable to adjacent countries, have not escaped being contested and coveted, first by one people, and then another. What has taken place in the East and elsewhere even during our own day appals the inquirer who wishes to probe as deep as possible into facts relating to passing events. The Pescadores, lying between China and Japan, have at one time aroused their neighbours to envy, though they have also attracted the attention of other nations from which they are far more remote. For in the last century, when much activity was exhibited in the Far East on account of the extension of trade, to which adventurers were turning their thoughts, not only was Formosa visited by men of various nationalities, but the Pescadores were not exempt from the terrors of designing foreigners in their midst.

It is said that the natives had always been in fear of the "red-haired foreigner," a name given to the Dutch. There was a prophecy remembered that men with this peculiarity would conquer them and become their masters. When in the seventeenth century the Dutch appeared, but little resistance was shown to the newcomers, for the Dutch soon made the iron hand of tyranny felt. They sold the natives for slaves, condemned them to hard labour without sufficient nourishment, and finally starved many to death. Others they carried away captives, throwing them overboard as they journeyed from place to place, as soon as ever they showed signs of sickness or disease. The suffering endured by guiltless natives and sailors through the cruelties and almost demoniacal deeds of their victors seems almost impossible to realize.

Although superstition is strongly condemned, in some instances it proved the means of taming fierce men. When their wicked deeds are followed up by some fierce outbreak of Nature, some disastrous storm or visitation, they become awed for a time, believing that an unseen power is sending the terror as a punishment.

The Pescadores, lying between China and Formosa, have been, like Formosa, a coveted possession. As a group it is the key to many important strategic surroundings, and for this cause has suffered much at the hands of would-be possessors. The Chinese, the Dutch, the Spaniards, and the Portuguese have all in turn tried to usurp authority.

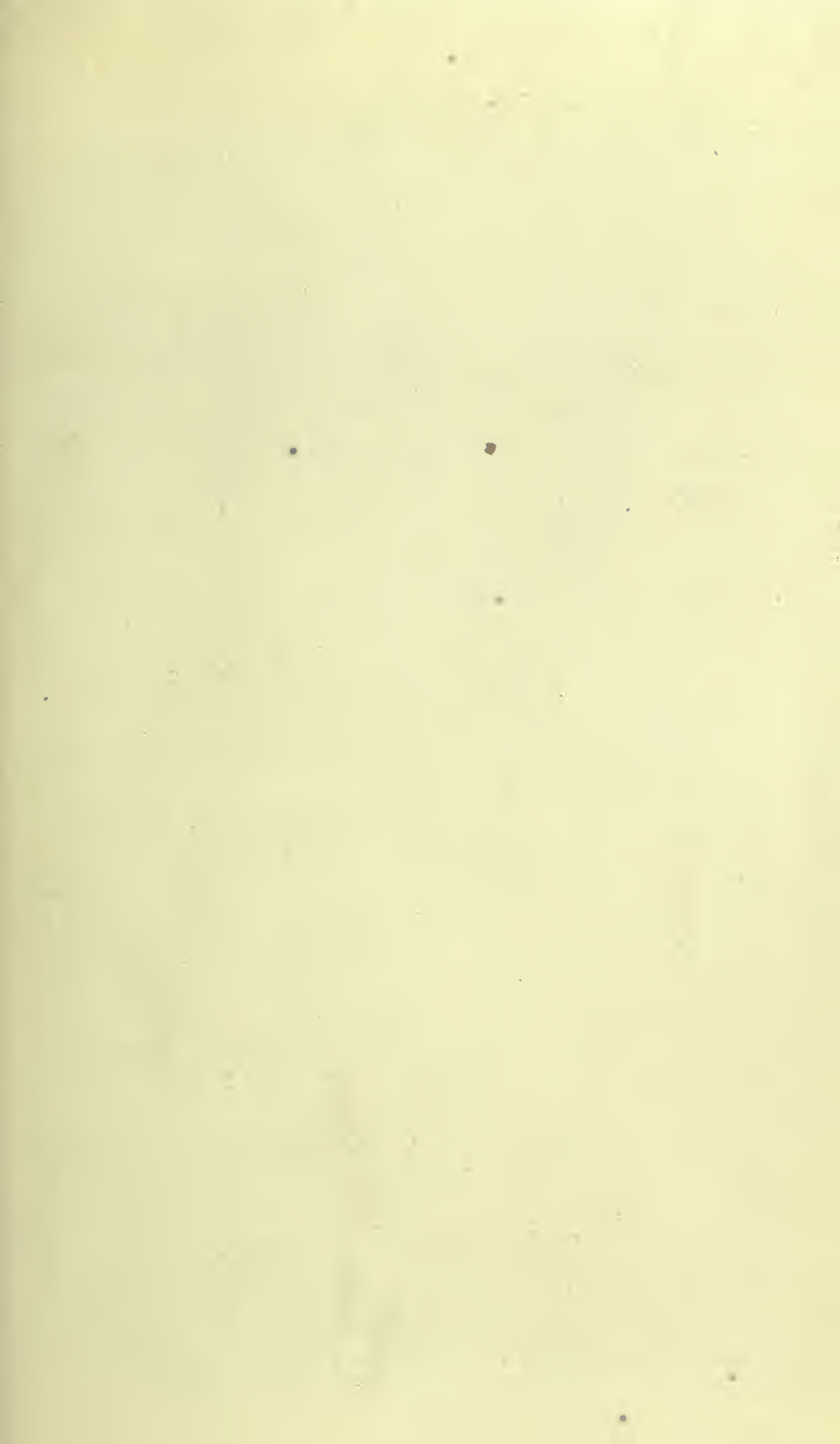
During the China-Japan War the Pescadores were bombarded, and after much hard fighting on either side, on March 26, 1895, the Japanese bluejackets entered

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the Yui-wang forts, that had some years before been built by the Chinese to resist invasion from without and produce a feeling of security within. But the Japanese found the forts empty, the garrison having fled, and soon after it was made known that the Chinese commander had surrendered. This event threw the whole of Formosa into a state of dire distress and confusion. The inhabitants were wild to escape, and the Chinese settlers crowded into any boat or steamer that could take them on board, enable them to get away, and effect their escape. Since this event little news has reached us concerning the community that now people the islands. Now and then news of missionary expeditions is reported, and efforts are being made on the part of the Japanese Government to organize institutions and schools, and to develop the trade and possibilities of the Pescadores.

Around Formosa, besides Hokō-To, lie a few more small islets great distances apart. Sho Liyu Kyu Tō, or Lambay Island, $120^{\circ} 40'$ longitude, $20^{\circ} 22'$ latitude; S. Kisan (or Steep Island), and Kiran To, $122^{\circ} 1'$ longitude, $25^{\circ} 9'$ latitude north-east; Kashō To (Samasana), east, opposite Taito (Pinan), southern extent of trolley-lines, $121^{\circ} 19'$ longitude, $23^{\circ} 18'$ latitude; and most important of all, Kōtō Sho (Botel Tobago), $122^{\circ} 30'$ longitude, $22^{\circ} 1'$ latitude.

The tribes of savages who inhabit the isolated island of Kōtō-Sho, or Botel Tobago, are called Yami. In course of time their services may become useful. They are not averse to instruction in the art of farming and agriculture, neither are they by nature so fierce and bellicose as many others that make up the vast hordes



JASPER
SAKNEY



on the eastern side of Taiwan. Their skin is very dark, their countenances forbidding. They have coarse, dark hair and thick features, full mouths, and flat noses. The women are strong and able to work. The Yami wear a striped material, made up into a primitive costume, reaching from the shoulders to below the knees, formed of a long breadth, sleeveless, without any pretence of fashioning, simply fastened together to protect the body under the arm, thus exposing their somewhat shapeless but muscular limbs. Their hands are strong, their feet large, their figures angular and disproportionate, devoid of any personal charm. The love of beads is equally characteristic among men and women. The beads, which are of various colours and shapes, are made up into elaborate necklaces that reach to the waist and cover over the breast. These ornaments are composed of several strings threaded somewhat cleverly together, and in some cases quite good taste is observed concerning their disposal. Beads often form a considerable item of dress; besides necklaces, they are selected for ear decoration and hair ornament. The homes of the Yami are simple and picturesque, but devoid of any luxury whatever, save the wild and luxuriant forestry and vegetation Nature bestows upon their surroundings. The huts are thatched in a rude, unfinished sort of way, and left untrimmed. The roof is long, the hut having a door at one end, which affords little entrance to light or to promote any other cheeriness within. Being built as a bungalow, there is no upper story. These houses are crowded together in any spot available for their construction. Sometimes a wall of stones is built around a village, or compound, which usually boasts of a granary

in its midst. The villages do not in any way mar, but rather contribute to, the general effect of the landscape. Even in the small island of Botel Tobago there are mountainous districts. These are favoured for habitation as well as shelter against the severe rainstorms, which are very prevalent.

The Pescadores have seen many changes, and consequently strife and envy have hampered their progress. The inhabitants, which are principally Chinese, suffered considerably in the past. The iron hand of tyranny has pressed sorely upon what might have been an industrious community.

Since the Japanese occupation the islands have become more peaceful. The forces of Nature keep down the population, since many are constantly drowned in the tempestuous seas, and are the victims of sudden death, or else are rendered homeless and penniless after the fury of one wild storm or sudden visitation. Coal is found in the islands, but not yet worked to any extent.

The habitations of the Yami tribe, who live on the isolated island of Botel Tobago, are somewhat remarkable in construction, differing widely from the ordinary low-built simple huts of the rest of the people. The dwellings of the chiefs are mostly built in three stories. In winter that portion that is half underground is chosen, in order to escape as far as possible the terrible winds and storms. In spring and early summer the second story is occupied, while during the intense heat the third stage is resorted to in order to obtain a good healthy sea-breeze. These homes receive a considerable amount of attention and care. They are principally of wood, but

the upper story is built of a combination of wood and straw and bamboo. The roof and the sides are covered with thatch, well protected by this means, for the thatch is of strong dried grass, which assists to keep out the heat as well as the damp. The Yami being experts in the chase, the walls of their houses are decorated within with bones and teeth of animals and other trophies; also with rude designs representing human figures.* The plague of the island being rats, the buildings are sometimes elevated on piles of wood, but when a foundation is dug out, rat preventers are set about the compound, particularly where stores are kept. These rat preventers resemble our staddle stones, and are much after the same pattern as those used by farmers all over our *own* islands, though in England they are perhaps a trifle more artistic in design, these precautions being absolutely necessary in all places where a wholesale clearance of refuse is impossible. They are met with in most islands, particularly of the Pacific. It is somewhat interesting to find just this link of ideas in such an out-of-the-way holding; but as rats swarm over Botel Tobago as soon as night draws her curtain of darkness, some preventive measure must be resorted to, for granaries are set up apart from the homes.

The inhabitants of Botel Tobago are particularly healthy, free from disease or deformity of any kind. They live peacefully among themselves, not being given to taking any intoxicating drink; but as the goat is plentiful, milk is drunk in large quantities. The supply of food chiefly consists of goats' flesh, hog, chicken, fish, and cocoanut.

* *The Island of Formosa, Past and Present.* By W. Davidson.

Botel Tobago seems more or less to have escaped the vengeance of the various raids that were organized in these parts by European, Chinese, and Japanese in past centuries. Its dimensions being small, and so little being known either of the inhabitants or of any source of wealth that the island contains, caused it to be passed by. Whether or no these peaceable aborigines will be able to hold their own and gain sufficient benefit and civilization from the present organization of Taiwan time alone will show. The forbidding appearance of both Yami men and women may tell against them, as well as their inherent hatred for the foreigner. But in the cause of expansion and colonization men are required for the work of bringing fallow land under useful cultivation. We can but hope the inhabitants of this solitary island may prosper and be allowed to enjoy the small possession that must be very dear to their hearts.

THE END

APPENDIX I

YEZO—PART OF THE NORTH SEA CIRCUIT

THE Ainu who inhabited Yezo, in the past took an active, aggressive, and important part in the history of the country to which they now belong.

Therefore in these days it is rare to find a barbaric race of people left so long to themselves to pursue their religion, vocations, customs, and superstitions, after the manner in which these important items have been carried on unchanged for centuries among the inhabitants of Yezo.

Historians disagree concerning the origin of this race; but they are all of the opinion that the Ainu inhabited Japan long before the present race of Japanese possessed the mainland. It is believed by some writers that the Ainu were the aborigines, or original settlers, and that they have occupied the land ever since the creation, or rather lived upon the land as soon as people trod upon it; for this reason the right of possession sooner or later became a matter of dispute. Ainu names of rivers, towns, and places, are distributed all over Japan, from Satzuma to the Kuriles—that is, from north to south. The pit-dwellers, who lived in pits and caves, were a race of dwarfs, who were soon overcome and exterminated by these barbarians; since none of the pit-dwellers survive at this present time.

Yezo is not a recent dependency. An account is here given to complete the description of the three divisions of the North Sea Circuit.

Some ethnographers are inclined to favour the belief that both ancient Ainu and present Japanese have sprung from Mongolian stock, the cast of features favouring this theory. It is known that the Ainu were ever restless, shifting their abodes and exploring as they pursued their determination to investigate the Empire.

The migration of these people towards the South continued for

centuries; they intermarried with the Japanese, and adopted many of their customs. They acquired prestige, owing to their skill and craft in the art of warfare. For a long time fortune befriended them. Centuries of unrest made their presence extremely perilous. The pacific attitude they are adopting at the present time is far removed from the account of their combative disposition in the past. For they were not without ambitions, and rather courted quarrels with the Japanese than otherwise; making no attempt at pacific relationship, notwithstanding the inequality of numbers and the superiority of intellect.

When opportunities arose and privileges were at stake, the Ainu fought fiercely and bravely, and often conquered their antagonists for the time being, in spite of the disadvantages above mentioned. They were dazzled with the beauty, fertility, and general aspect of Japan. The southern provinces proved highly attractive, particularly in respect to fishing; for they lived upon the harvest of the sea, more even than upon the spoils of the chase, to which also they have ever been very partial.

Eventually, however, the Ainu were compelled to retire to the principal northern island, crossing over the Tsuguru Straits. They were driven off the mainland and conquered; cut off from the growing civilization; and within Yezo, in spite of having extensively intermarried with the Japanese, they have remained content, to a certain extent, with their isolation from the rest of the world. This spirit has robbed them latterly of all ambition. To be left to themselves and their own resources seems all they consider worth striving for at this present time.

The mountainous aspect of Yezo renders it very imposing. The highest peaks are situated in the centre. Some of these attain the height of 12,000 feet. The ranges graduate towards the shore. This feature of the land affects in no small measure the characteristic customs and beliefs of the people.

Coal is extensively found in the region round Hakkodate and Matsumae. There is sufficient not only to supply Japan, but also to export to Hong Kong and other parts of China. This coal is of varied qualities, and would be most useful for coaling ships in time of war.

It was not until ambitious engineers, explorers, and men of letters resolved to find out for themselves the productiveness of the land and its ultimate possibilities that items of interest connected with Yezo became general knowledge.

Yezo was at one time overrun with Cossacks, who did much damage and mischief during their stay.

The fur trade, already alluded to, that began during the seventeenth century, sounded the note of war between man and beast, which has by no means abated.

In 1869 a Commission was sent northwards by the Japanese to inquire into the state of the country with a view of possible improvements. The expedition, however, was not the success anticipated. It did not fulfil its expectations. General Capron and other Americans were engaged in the service of a special governmental department. A great sum of money was spent in the endeavour to develop model farms and farming. All seemed to bid fair for a time; but in the year 1881 the Commission was dissolved. The administration of the island is now carried out in the form of prefectures.

The situation of Yezo is somewhat important. Between this island and the maritime province of Russia runs the Sea of Japan; between Saghalien and Yezo the La Perouse Straits; between the southern limit of Yezo and Hondo, which constitutes the extreme southern point of the mainland of Japan, the Tsugaru Straits. These straits are very important. Their extreme depth proves, in the first instance, that Yezo never formed part of the mainland, and that it was always an independent island, for the geological formations found on either side of the straits are not identical. Between the eastern point of Yezo and the extreme southern boundary of Kamschatka the Sea of Okhotsk washes the Kuriles, all part of the archipelago of Japan. On the other side the North Pacific Ocean stretches far, far away, uninterrupted only by a glimpse of the lonely Aleutian Islands, till it reaches the populated strand of British Columbia.

When the question arose some years ago of protecting the coast, which is very dangerous in parts, these northern possessions, together with the Loo Choo Islands, were provided with light-houses for the precaution of mariners and fishermen. Fog signals have also been systemized for the better safety, fogs being very prevalent around the coast at certain times of the year.

The chief places in Yezo are Sapporo, which is the capital, where the Governor-General of the North Sea Circuit resides; Hakkodate, which has become an imposing port; Akkeshi; Nemuro; Mororan; and Matsumae, which is now called Fukuyama. With the abolition of the Shōgunate and the *daimio* the tyrannous

rule over the Ainu has relaxed. Through the dictates and the wishes of the late Emperor, Meiji Tennō, who effected so much good for his beloved subjects, including those of the lower grades, the condition of all has been raised, and, like the Eta, these ancient people have found redress. Some have been brought to Japan to profit by the advantages offered in the Colonization Society.

In the traditions of the people the bear has played a conspicuous part. Many impossible and improbable stories have been handed down to us in respect to their love and veneration and ultimate sacrifice of this animal.

Like the Mexicans, who revered the object of their worship, which was the handsomest youth of the land, showered every luxury in his path, and then at the end of a year sacrificed his life by means of some barbarous ceremonial, so, in like manner, the Ainus treat the object of their worship.

The bear cub is hunted and captured, and brought into the home quite young. There it often commands greater care than the children, and has been known to receive sustenance from the women of the household when it was possible to do so, or if not, other foster nurses were pressed into its service.

When too old and formidable to be at large, a strong cage is made of wood, bound fast with iron bands, into which bruin is persuaded to retire. When once captured in this way, there is no possible escape for the rest of his life. At the age—generally of two, if not three years at the most—the sacrifice takes place. The animal, having so long been the object of solicitude, little dreams of the fate for which it has been so tenderly reared.

The costume of the Ainu is decidedly artistic—we may almost say unique. If there exists any sentiment among them, apart from their religious beliefs and superstitions, it is centred in dress. The wife and women of the household pay great attention to the clothes of their lord and master. It is said that some women will spend many years in making and embroidering a ceremonial robe. The material is sometimes woven at home. The coat is formed by a combination of two pieces of cloth, laid one over the other. The over-piece sometimes is of Japanese make; the foundation cloth is hand-woven from the inner fibre of elm-bark, soaked and shredded. This is finally converted into threads that can be woven at a loom. It is not a good colour; it is the over-piece that gives the finishing touch, for upon this the bold artistic designs are worked with so much care. It is said that no two designs should be

identical, that should they prove so, it is by accident, not by imitation.

Most of the patterns bear out little peculiarities; they can be recognized among the workers, though in the eyes of strangers they may appear much the same. But the brightness of the cloth and the thread, which is usually imported, is a subject of much consideration; for there is great competition among the women for their husbands to be conspicuous in a ceremonial function, and their work for his benefit is a matter of much concern and comment.

The Ainu religion* is somewhat peculiar. They are Nature worshippers, and the objects of their veneration are numerous. The sun, the moon, stars, also certain animals and birds, such as owls, eagles, wrens, quails, woodpeckers, mice, hares, and other living creatures, are venerated. *Totems* enter largely into consideration. These are neither symbolic or pictorial, but embody in their form the animal, bird, fish, or tree, with which the people imagine they have some close affinity, amounting to almost blood-relationship.

Inao are other objects, principally formed from willow stems peeled and shaved at certain intervals. They are propitious offerings to household deities. These objects are ever present among the people, either occupying a special corner set apart in the compound round their homes and villages, or distributed along the high roads, in lonely mountain passes and places that require the protection of household gods.

The mountainous aspect of Yezo is not alone its only charm. The rugged beauty is not altogether devoid of some fearsome aspects. Still, Nature asserts her loveliness, and reveals verdant valleys and richly-clothed declivities. Clear streams rush onward to swell the cold waters of numerous rivers. These mountain torrents, after leaping and racing over boulders, hiding in deepening ravines, steal out beneath their cover and finally feel their way stealthily towards the sea—or the wide, cold ocean that lies between the Asiatic and American continents.

Already the engineer has been busy for the safety and comfort of those who are contemplating settling in Yezo. Apart from the principal State lines, other lines are in course of time to be laid. Progress is being written upon the face of the virgin country. It will soon become seamed and furrowed and scarred, no longer left primordial and untrodden, even within the interim. It will soon

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be wrinkled and lined and aged by the axe and the hammer, the bore, and many kinds of machinery.

Being such a cold and rugged country, a land of snow and ice in winter, though of a warmer temperature in summer, it naturally follows that there are pine and other resinous trees forming dense primæval forests. This would be a valuable industry in itself, if it were not for the scarcity of knowledge among the people of how to work the supply, and the lack of means to transport the timber to different parts of the island. Forest fires are of frequent occurrence, and they are known to continue to rage for two or three years without extinction. The resinous nature of these trees feeds the fires, and therefore sustains and aids the destruction.

The greater natural charm may be proven in the still, broad lakes with which the traveller becomes suddenly confronted, great waters sometimes surrounded by sentinel rocks and mountainous rugosities—those attesting witnesses of the handiwork of the Divine, who seem to have written their autographs in lines of stone against the sky. These are the allies of God, that proclaim in the most desolate and isolated corners of the earth His paramount power over all things and all men—a power that shall never be conquered or dissolved by any theories science can set forth in this restless age, or any other that the world may know.

APPENDIX II

THE SIGHTING OF THE SOUTH SEA, OR PACIFIC OCEAN

It was in the month of September, four hundred years ago, that the Pacific was discovered by a European named Vasquez (or Vascos) Nunez de Balboa, who is reported to have been a man of a wild and desperate character. He had fled to Darien in order to escape many difficulties, especially of a pecuniary nature. Since the work of separating North and South America by the means of engineering skill and the organizing of the Panama Canal, this discovery of the Pacific has been described by many writers.

In an old publication by Robert Kerr, F.R.S., F.A.S.,* we learn that Vasquez Nunez de Balboa was of good family and fine physique. He was about thirty-five years of age when he landed at Hispaniola. Having committed some misdemeanour on the island, he was concealed in a bread cask for some days until he could be secretly assisted to escape by Enciso, who happened to be in command of a vessel bound for Darien.

The captain had received orders not to carry any offenders from the island, but he was finally overruled by the wishes of the other passengers, and so ran the risk of disobeying orders. De Balboa had exercised a wonderful power over the natives, whose moods varied with the rise and fall of their fortunes.

The sighting of the Pacific Ocean reads like an eastern romance. The existence of this wide waste of water had been described by a native to the daring young Spaniard, who was not long in making up his mind. De Balboa set out without delay, and willingly faced a journey across the isthmus of 300 miles, in his eagerness running hard part of the distance. He had many difficulties to contend with, for we have recently learnt about the fickle climate and forces of Nature, of sudden storms and drenching tropical rain in those

* *A General History of Voyages and Travel*, etc. By Robert Kerr. Vol. III. Edinburgh. Dated 1811.

regions. On reaching the end of his journey, he bade his 190 companions halt while he climbed the mountains alone, which feat occupied three days to accomplish.

When the ocean was revealed to his astonished gaze, the impulse to give glory to God was uppermost in De Balboa's mind. Carrying out his pious intentions, eventually a tree was felled and made into the form of a cross, set to face the sea. Then the ardent adventurer rowed out on the water in the most convenient craft or canoe that he could charter. In order to express his joy and thanksgiving, he exclaimed, "*Te Deum Laudamus !*" within sight and hearing of his faithful followers. After this De Balboa solemnly took possession of the ocean for the crown of Spain, an event not willingly recognized by other European nations.

When De Balboa returned to the shore he acquainted his men of his intentions. Being no exception to the rule, he was more than ready to share any danger with his followers for the ultimate prize of great riches that appeared inevitable. He frankly told his men that they would go back to their native land the richest men in Spain. There was gold in the venture enough for all, together with precious woods, spices, and endless other treasures that would eventually be divided.

This dream of the sighting of a mighty ocean had been the dream that many generations had outlived to see fulfilled. For this reason it is no wonder that when De Balboa beheld the vast expanse of sea illuminated and glistening in the morning shine, sparkling like a field of gold and precious stones, guarded on its margin with lofty forestry, together with rich rivers flowing to join the wide waters, his heart became overwhelmed with gratitude to his Maker ; for De Balboa was a man of piety as well as daring, and may, indeed, be numbered among the master mariners of past centuries.

In the early days of adventure and activity in unknown regions, only men who could rule others, brook no end of discomforts, dangers, failures, disappointments without number, and trials of many descriptions, ever succeeded. These men were often misunderstood. They occasionally made great mistakes, and were not too particular themselves when dealing with those settlers who were at the time the rightful possessors and aborigines of the lands and islands visited. Still, their services as brave explorers were not sufficiently rewarded, though in this generation we are reaping the benefits of their self-sacrificing deeds, which have been the means

of lightening the lot of many whose services may prove most acceptable in the future.

Nevertheless, it is a melancholy fact to relate that most of the early navigators of the Pacific were unrewarded. When the tidings of De Balboa's discovery were transmitted to Spain they were received with great rejoicings. But soon after the Court of Spain despatched a Governor to supersede him. This Governor, being jealous of his success, did not rest until De Balboa was publicly executed in 1517.

De Balboa was not the only one who was martyred. Magellan and Cook shared the same fate later, for both eventually fell into the hands of murderous savages, who mistook their intentions, and dealt with them accordingly. The Straits of Magellan, that separate the continent of South America from Terra del Fuego, which is crowded with obstructing islands so difficult to navigate, was passed by Ferdinand de Magellan (Magalhaens) on November 27, 1520. He was a Portuguese who had served under D'Albuquerque in the East Indies. After his voyage this navigator altered the name of the South Sea to that of the Pacific Ocean, on account of its beautiful and peaceful aspect at the time of it being traversed.

Magellan did not long enjoy the patronage of Charles V. of Spain, for during a skirmish with natives on one of the Philippines he was stoned and shot to death with poisoned arrows. His vessel was conducted to Spain by Juan Sebastian del Cano. He had fortified the straits, but his garrison died of hunger. For this reason the cape close by was named Cape Famine.

The discovery of the Isthmus of Darien was attributed to Columbus as early as 1404, and there is a record that an attempt was made to form a colony in those parts. The scheme was seriously considered in England. Many young men and women were selected as suitable emigrants to be sent thither, but while the plan was being discussed and funds were being raised, the Spaniards stepped in and claimed their right over the isthmus. All who were sent thither died of disease or famine.

Sir Francis Drake set sail on December 13, 1577. Drake encountered many perils, but succeeded in circumnavigating the globe. He returned to England, but undertook another expedition under the auspices of Lord Howard, then Lord High Admiral of England. This brave Englishman never returned again to his native land, for Sir Francis Drake died at Panama, 1596.*

* Haydn, *Dictionary of Dates*. 1876.

Though Vasquez de Balboa was the first to float a boat upon the Pacific, it was the later adventurers who traversed the high seas, and to Captain Cook is given the glory of having determined the form of the earth and observed the transit of Venus across the sun's disc on June 3, 1769, both achievements being the results of his voyages. He also did not long outlive his achievements, since on February 14, 1779, he was killed by savages in Owhyhee. He was shot to death and mutilated, his body was cut to pieces and divided amongst his victors; only portions were permitted to be carried away by those of his party who could purchase his remains, together with a few of his personal belongings.*

One after another brave pathfinders by sea or land have given up their lives. In our own day we have to mourn the loss of Captain Scott, whose energies were directed to the finding of the South Pole, and whose tragic death will ever be remembered with the deepest reverence and regret.

Among the many islands discovered by Europeans during the sixteenth and eighteenth centuries the names of the Philippines, the Landrones, the Carolines, Vries Island, Zipangū, or Japan, and others mentioned in this work, were visited and claimed attention.

Though Vasquez Nunez de Balboa was the first to float a craft upon the Pacific, it was the adventurers of later times whose keels ploughed its waters. But whatever events have followed the sighting of the Pacific, the story of De Balboa will henceforth never be forgotten, for the grand and wonderful scheme for parting North and South America by means of the Panama Canal is in full progress.

Where ships of all nations will make their egress or exit through the great locks of Gatun and Pedro Miguel, large tracts of land must be passed that bear the name of De Balboa and other explorers, and will thus proclaim the achievements of the past as well as the engineering skill of our own day. At present the difficulties to be overcome are enormous. Torrential rain, succeeded by fierce heat, keep the area of work in a constant state of detrimental moisture. Mosquitos and noisome reptiles have to be avoided, hovering over and lurking within swampy surroundings.

* It has been the writer's privilege to hold in her hand Captain Cook's compass. For some years it was in the possession of a friend, but this treasure was eventually sold in an obscure village in Sussex about forty years ago for a trifling sum, together with other goods and effects of a little country home.

Beauty on one side and hideous confusion on the other. Colossal undertakings are being faced, mountains are being blasted, the whirl of machinery, the removing of débris, the beat of hammers, and endless other sounds, which even in their discordancies become subdued into symphonics of industrial reverberations, are heard far and wide over the theatre of work and extraordinary labour.*

While the genius of the engineer and electrician is in our own day principally directed towards inventions that will in the future make warfare more terrible than ever, it is a consolation to be informed that, however presumptuous the parting of the Americas may appear, we have one important fact to bear in mind. This ambitious undertaking, we are assured, is to benefit mankind in general, to increase commerce and promote good fellowship, to aid progress, provide labour, and maintain peace.

Surely this enterprise will in the near future be the means of bringing many of the fair and beautiful isles of the Pacific as well as these *Island Dependencies of Japan* into greater prominence and importance.

* This description was given from one who has lately returned from Panama.

NOTES

1. *Formosa*.—A woman with red hair and light eyes has been seen by travellers on the Giran side of the island. The children take after the mothers in this colouring. They were seen among the Peipohuan tribes, and still live among them (p. 43).

2. The betel-nut produces a deep pink stain over the lips and mouth, also much saliva. It is chewed on account of the strengthening qualities it is supposed to possess (p. 27).

3. The export of camphor extends in proportionate quantities to Germany, the United States, England, France, and India. This valuable production is obtained from the twigs and branches, upper and lower parts of the stems, and the best is procured from the stumps and the roots. Formosa also produces pith or rice-paper, tree indigo, mountain indigo, persimmon, tallow-tree, castor-oil plant, coffee, coconuts, palms, tapioca plants, as well as others already mentioned. Sulphur as well as coal is another export of Formosa on a somewhat large scale. It is principally found in Tamsui (p. 30).

4. A somewhat beautiful custom prevails among the fierce tribes of the head-hunters that shows what an immense consideration is felt among them for their own dead. The corpse is provided with new clothes, after careful washing, and is finally wrapped either in a fine deer-skin or a valuable cloth. The West Ataiyals dig a grave under the sleeping-room that was occupied by the deceased during life. After mourning for a certain number of days, the house is vacated by the living altogether. It becomes *henceforth the tomb of the dead*. The East Ataiyals bury their dead outside the house, and never go near to disturb them again. Where the body rests is sacred property, and must never be visited by the living. The first custom is also observed by the Payuma group, the second by the Vonum. There are other equally interesting and thoughtful observances of a very touching nature, existing among these people, which prove that, however they may abhor the stranger, the tie of kinship and reverence for the dead of their own is thoughtful in the extreme.

5. *Loo Choo Islands*.—Among many quaint customs described by a recent traveller, the boats round about Okina-wa have an eye painted on each side, which gives the boat the appearance of a sea monster. The boatmen are very skilful, and undertake journeys by sea easily to China and Formosa. Some of the inhabitants of the Loo Choos have already migrated to Formosa, and have even visited England.

6. The black sugar that is produced in Okina-wa is seldom exported; it is retained for home consumption. There are many sugar-mills, constructed with revolving stones, that are turned by horses. The sugarcane is crushed and squeezed by this method.

7. There is a tree called the *Fuko-ji*, or happy-tree, that is a great favourite, planted to keep out the severe winds round about the homes and villages (p. 73).

8. *The Kuriles*.—According to the account of a recent visitor to the Kuriles, these northern islands are so hot at certain times that during the summer months labour has to be suspended on account of the heat, while the temperature (from 10 to 30 degrees below zero) in winter equally renders activity almost impossible (p. 108).

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